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YOU REALIZE I'M GOING TO BOTCH THIS ROLE, RIGHT

KRISTEN STEWART SAYS SHE TOLD THE DIRECTOR OF EQUALS THAT THE SCI-FI ROMANCE WOULD BE WAY TOO HARD PAGE 21

All the other kids with the Raptors kicks

...better run, better run — because people will steal or pay $100,000 to get their hands on a pair PAGE 6

Truth may be lost forever in sperm scandal

Woman may never get to bottom of her parentage with fertility clinic closed, and suspect dead PAGE 10

TTC saves day with purse hot potato

Lost purse gets passed from streetcar to streetcar in order to reunite woman with her belonging PAGE 3

NEWS WORTH SHARING.

Toronto closing on dead last in employment

Among Canada's major urban centres.
Big-city problems not balanced by prosperity

The jobless rate across the Toronto region — at 8.4 per cent in December — is the second highest among Canada's major urban centres.

It is higher than the national average, which is 7.2 per cent. It is even higher than in cities like Windsor that were hit harder by the 2008 recession, according to Statistics Canada data.

The city's jobless rate is even higher when the numbers for the suburbs are stripped out of the StatsCan data for the Toronto area.

In a report delivered Tuesday to the city's economic-development committee, councillors heard the unemployment rate in Toronto proper had risen to 10.1 per cent.

"That's a big concern," said Peter Viducis, the city manager for economic and cultural research. "We haven't seen that number for over a year."

Big cities also attract more young people and recent immigrants, who tend to have higher unemployment rates. As a result, Toronto's population growth is outstripping its ability to create jobs.

"I'm not going to say it's a dire situation. But it's noteworthy that the local economy is underperforming much of the rest of the country," said Doug Porter, chief economist for BMO Capital Markets, who remarked on the data in a note to clients.

St. Catharines led the country's major urban centres with a jobless rate of 8.8, according to the StatsCan figures released Friday.

In its fall forecast, the Conference Board of Canada said Toronto's economy was expected to grow just 1.6 per cent in 2013. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

FOR MAYOR FORD'S TAKE ON UNEMPLOYMENT, SEE PAGE 3

BOZAK BEATS DOWN B'S

Leafs centre Tyler Bozak celebrates his second goal of the game against the Boston Bruins with left winger James van Riemsdyk in Boston on Tuesday. The Leafs hung on in the third period and earned a 4-3 victory. See story, page 32. ELISE AMENDOLA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Unemployment

Ford mum on jobless data

Rob Ford
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Mayor Rob Ford held a news conference in September to congratulate himself for Toronto's unemployment rate, which fell from 9.4 per cent when he took office to 7.1 per cent in August.

Ford had another news conference on Tuesday. At this one, he would not say the word "unemployment" at all.

The rate has been rising. The monthly seasonally adjusted figure for the city jumped to 8.9 per cent in September, then to 9.8 per cent in October. After a decline to 9.2 per cent in November, it reached 10.1 per cent in December.

Ford refused Tuesday to directly address the numbers. Instead, he cited more favourable jobs-related statistics, such as the increase since 2010 in the total number of employed residents. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Health

Hike in minimum wage urged

A group of doctors and nurses urged the Ontario government Tuesday to raise the minimum wage to $14 from $10.25 an hour, calling poverty "the biggest barrier to good health."

Health Providers Against Poverty said stress from living in poverty releases chemicals in the body that inhibit brain growth in youth. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Study. Health risks greater in least-walkable areas

Rates of obesity and diabetes are 33 per cent higher in outlying parts of Toronto that are not walking-friendly, new research shows.

A study by St. Michael's Hospital shows that densely populated neighbourhoods with more destinations within a short walking distance — such as those in the downtown core — are healthier when it comes to obesity and diabetes.

"The neighbourhoods that are the most walkable tend to be in the older areas of the city. They tend to be in areas that were built up largely prior to World War Two," explained co-author Dr. Gillian Booth.

A team of researchers from the hospital produced a map that shows which parts of the city are the most and least walkable.

Dr. Gillian Booth
CONTRIBUTED

Least-walkable neighbourhoods include those in outer Etobicoke and Scarborough. Residents living in such areas have, on average, a one-third greater chance of being obese and having diabetes than those in the most walkable areas, according to the study published Wednesday in the online journal PLOS One.

Booth emphasized that the study compares "average" health risks of the most walkable areas to the least. Actual risks vary from neighbourhood to neighbourhood and are affected by such factors as income level and ethnicity. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Streetcar relay returns purse to passenger

Helping hands. Grateful rider makes New Year's resolution to never again complain about TTC

Anika Baranyai is very grateful to the TTC drivers that banded together to bring her purse back to her.
RENE JOHNSTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The TTC three-point pass was a humanity-affirming miracle to the woman who lost her purse, and just another day on the rails for a trio of streetcar drivers and their supervisor.

Anika Baranyai was heading to a party on New Year's Eve when she had that stomach-dropping moment after exiting the 506 Carlton streetcar.

She got off at De Grassi Street because her friend Julie McGregor couldn't make the streetcar.

Waiting for McGregor on the sidewalk, Baranyai realized her purse — with cash, keys and a credit card — was still aboard the vehicle.

They boarded another 506 Carlton streetcar, and McGregor insisted they ask the driver if he could help. John Nikas called dispatch where supervisor Everton Barrett began making calls to other drivers on the line.

Glen Hughes, two streetcars ahead, asked his passengers to have a look under their red seats. Seconds later, a man emerged at the front with the neutral-coloured, slightly glossy Italian leather handbag.

Hughes called Barrett back.

A few blocks away, Baranyai thanked Nikas for the good news and said she'd pick up the purse at the lost and found. He told her she'd have it in less than five minutes.

Barrett arranged the instant turnaround. The middleman, Wajahat Mir, driving east on College, picked up the purse from the westward Hughes in the second leg of the relay. Mir stopped the streetcar for the final hand-off, somewhere near Yonge Street. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Better, faster, cheaper.
Mayoral candidate pro-LRT

Toronto mayoral candidate David Soknacki announced Tuesday that if elected he would seek to ditch the Scarborough subway in favour of light rail transit.

Speaking to reporters at Lawrence East SRT station, the former city councillor for Ward 43, Scarborough East said the LRT offers better service at lower cost to Toronto taxpayers.

The former budget chief under mayor David Miller said Mayor Rob Ford's subway plan requires borrowing almost $1 billion.

Soknacki said he would cancel Ford's "property-tax increase needed to pay for the subway option."

Cancelling the subway at this point will not cost anything as city officials have not signed any contracts for the project. Some money has been approved by council to begin the project but it has not been spent. Cancelling the LRT will cost $85 million with much of it used to pay for cancelled contracts.

Soknacki said his LRT would have seven stops, "require no tax increase, no add to the city's debt and be built years sooner than a subway," Soknacki said.

David Soknacki at Lawrence East SRT Station. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Ford has railed against LRTs as glorified streetcars that block motorists. Soknacki set his announcement on the existing SRT line to show it runs in its own route, not roads, so it doesn't impede cars.

On support for a subway, Soknacki says residents say they want subways but when details are canvassed, they warm up to the idea of light rail transit. "Everyone wants subways and then you say, 'Do you want two or three stops or do you want seven stops?'"

"They want better service, they want faster service, they want cheaper service. And that's what this is all about."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

All is not lost

Soknacki said the $660M in federal money could be diverted to other infrastructure needs, like a new subway to act as a downtown relief line.

Staged collisions probe

T.O. clinics face large fines in insurance fraud cases

Three Toronto-area rehabilitation clinics have been fined hundreds of thousands of dollars following convictions for insurance fraud arising from a probe into staged collisions.

McCowan Rehabilitation Clinic of Toronto was found guilty on counts of knowingly making a false or misleading statement to an auto insurer and engaging in unfair or deceptive acts or practices. The clinic was sentenced to the maximum fine at the time of $100,000 on each count and ordered to pay restitution to insurers.

Physiotherapy Clinic of Scarborough faced similar charges and was fined $100,000 after pleading guilty to making false statements.

And North York Health and Rehabilitation of Toronto has been convicted of similar charges but remains before the courts for sentencing.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Special help could stigmatize Somali students, parents say

TDSB. Some parents are opposing task-force recommendations on how to address struggles within their community

Special help proposed for students of Somali descent — scholarships, mentors, more focus on university planning — is not needed and will only stigmatize the students, a small group of Somali parents warns.

Some 30 Somali-Canadian parents gathered outside the Toronto District School Board Tuesday to protest recommendations from a board task-force on how to address the struggles faced by some Somali students, from higher dropout rates to more suspensions and lower enrolment in university-bound programs.

Suban Abdullahi, who has three children in university, said Somali children don't need scholarships, mentors or extra help, although the task force states 25 per cent of students of Somali descent drop out, roughly 10 percentage points more than the board's average.

Said Abdullahi: "We don't need more labelling and separation; we've had enough already."

Thanks, but ...

"Our children are born and raised in Canada; we don't need a special brand of education."

Suban Abdullahi, mother of three university students

Protesters demonstrated outside of the Toronto District School Board Tuesday to voice their displeasure with the TDSB Somali task force. They feel the program stigmatizes Somali children. LUCAS OLENIUK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Yet the TDSB set up the task force a year ago at the request of Somali families concerned about student engagement in the wake of violence which rocked the community.

After several public consultations that drew a total of nearly 400 parents, the task force made several recommendations, including a review of why so many students of Somali descent are placed in special-education programs and seem to be steered away from university-bound courses.

The proposals will be debated at a Jan. 22 committee meeting and voted on Feb. 5 by the board.

Task force co-chair Ali Mohamed argued the recommendations are meant to help the students feel more integrated with others — not less — by using older students as mentors, including Somalia more in the curriculum, and training teachers about the culture.

"We're encouraging more supports within class, not segregation. We're levelling the playing field, and 99 per cent of parents support the changes," said Mohamed, father of four TDSB students.

Roughly 6,000 students in the Toronto board have identified themselves as being of Somali descent.

Co-chair Haweiya Egeh said the task force has tried to convince this group of critics that the plan would not stigmatize students. "We want to give more support to parents, and we've done the most extensive outreach with the community in history," she said.

While community organizer Ahmed Hussen said the board has been too involved in the consultation — he said it should have been done by an independent body — superintendent Jim Spyropoulos said the Somali community asked for the task force, initiated it and has been driving the public meetings. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Brad Duguid TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Pan Am lends hand to those lending time

Post-secondary students who lend a hand at the Toronto 2015 Pan Am/Parapan Am Games will be getting some help of their own when it comes to their student loan payments.

The province announced Tuesday that volunteering students won't have to make their pre-study financial payment in recognition of them not picking up paid work during the summer break that year.

Meanwhile, those graduating from full-time courses who help out will have the usual six-month grace period before they have to start paying back their loans doubled to a year.

In making the announcement, the Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities Brad Duguid said volunteering at the Games will help students make a lasting impact on their communities and build valuable skills for the future.

"(Students) shouldn't have to choose between pursuing the opportunity of a lifetime and investing in their future," Duguid said.

The $1.9-million program is expected to help about 4,500 students volunteering with the Games.

A total of 20,000 volunteers will be involved with the sporting events, billed as the largest ever in the province. Their duties will range from collecting tickets to shuttling athletes across the city.

Recruitment for volunteers begins in mid-April.

Saad Rafi, the Games' new CEO, said they are looking for people who are "creative problem solvers, outgoing and interested in the world and passionate of their community."

"Our volunteers will be the face and the heart of the Games." THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Bell Let's Talk

Fouled fan scores Raptor's kicks

Memento. T.O. man wowed not only by point guard Kyle Lowry but by online support

It was a belated Happy New Year for Raptors fan Alan Vale.

The Toronto resident and teacher travelled to Chicago on Dec. 31 to watch his team beat the Chicago Bulls 85-79. He and his fiancé watched the game from the lower bowl of the United Center. As Toronto point guard Kyle Lowry was walking off the court after the game, he spotted a Raptors jersey among rival fans — Vale was wearing Amir Johnson's No. 15.

Lowry untied his shoes and tossed them at Vale, but a Bulls fan swooped in and grabbed them, as a GIF image and video shows. The video has over 300,000 views on YouTube.

For keeps

"I definitely won't be selling them on EBay."
Alan Vale, Raptors fan

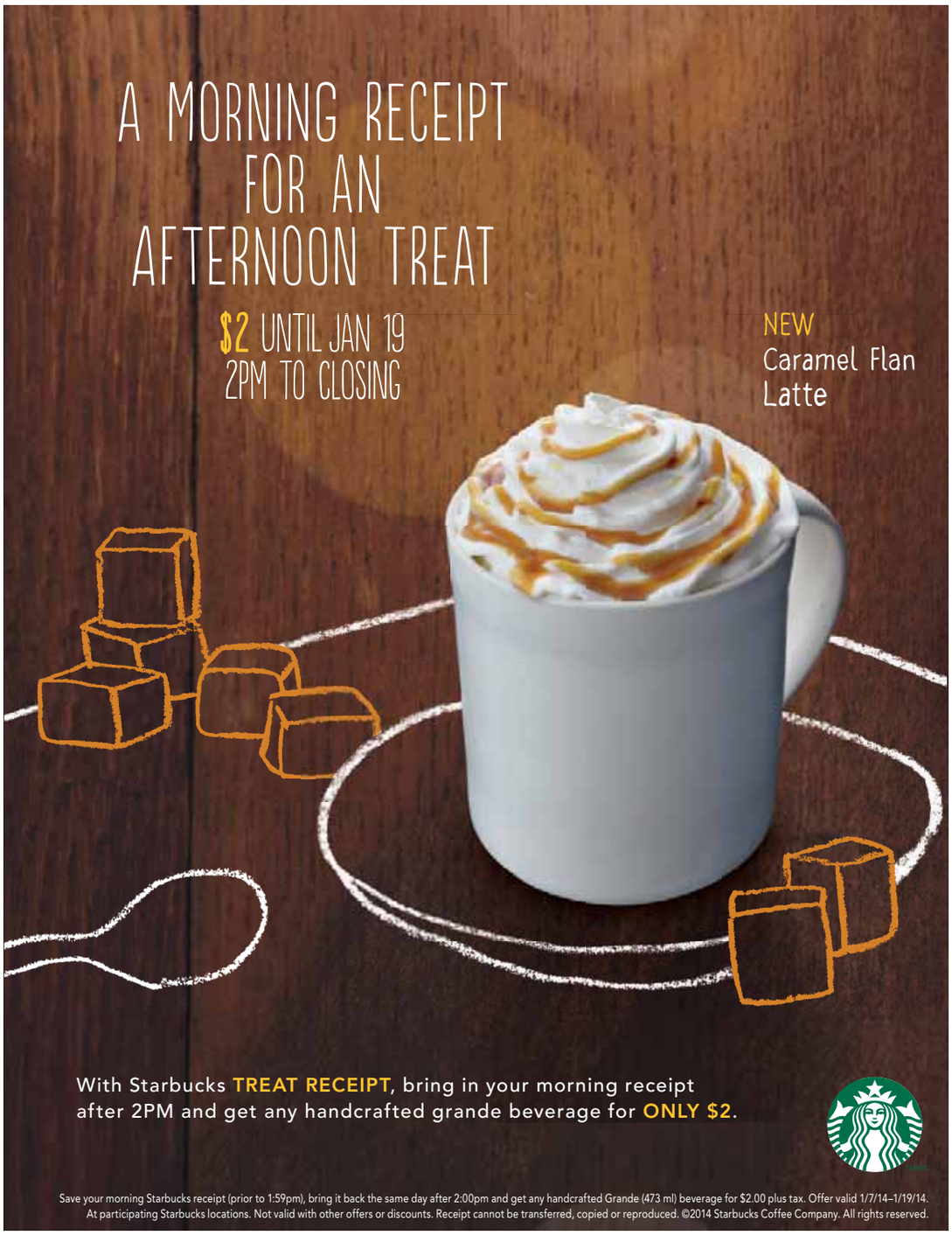
The longtime Raptors fan said he didn't think much of it, but his friends took up the cause, Facebooking and tweeting at Raptors management and players.

"It wasn't until we got back to Canada we realized it had started to blow up online," said Vale.

The team responded Friday. To make up for his loss, Vale was invited to Monday's home game where the Raptors beat the Milwaukee Bucks. Lowry posed for photos and presented the 29-year-old Vale with a new pair of his own sneakers in the players' lounge.

Vale said he was "very excited" for both the Raptors three-game winning streak and the shoes. "I'll probably keep them as a memento of not only Kyle but the entire incident," he said. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Alan Vale, left, got a pair of shoes from Raptors guard Kyle Lowry after his were stolen in Chicago. COURTESY TORONTO RAPTORS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Selling their soles. Shoes won at Raptors game going for $99,900 on EBay

The shoes handed out by the rapper Drake at last weekend's Raptors game could make two lucky fans doubly blessed — first with the gift, and later with cash.

Two pairs of Drake-designed iconic Air Jordans were given away by the team's "global ambassador" to two fans at the Air Canada Centre on Saturday night during the Raptors-Nets game.

By Tuesday afternoon, a black pair, which the seller claimed to win from Drake, had the highest bid of $100,000 on EBay. The white pair was posted slightly later and had a bid for over $49,000. Several days were left in the auction for both pairs.

During the halftime show, Drake gave a pair of white shoes to a fan, proclaiming "you're the only one with them."

He gave a black pair to a young woman, saying "these are definitely not going to fit you, but hopefully you could give them to somebody or keep them as a keepsake."

Drake OVO Air Jordan Retro CONTRIBUTED

The sellers say the shoes are "unreleased promo sample Drake OVO Air Jordan Retro 10s."

Elizabeth Semmelhack, senior curator at the Bata Shoe Museum, said she wasn't surprised by the price to possess a shoe associated with Drake.

The shoes haven't been publicly released, they have a slick design, and these pairs have provenance, Semmelhack said. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Sneaker culture

"The fact it was a personal gift from Drake himself ups the ante. Clearly ups the ante to $100,000."
Elizabeth Semmelhack, Bata Shoe Museum

Whitby

Police appeal for help finding missing jogger

Jeffrey Boucher CONTRIBUTED

Police say they are searching a wide area for a missing Whitby, Ont., man who they believe went out for a morning jog on Monday and never returned.

Durham regional police Sgt. Nancy van Rooy says the family of Jeffrey Boucher, 52, describe him as an avid runner and there's a possibility he may have been injured during his run.

It's believed he set out for his usual morning run on Monday, although van Rooy says no one actually saw him leave the house dressed for the jog.

Van Rooy says police are doing all they can to locate Boucher, a teacher at Bowmanville High School, and they have been using canine units as well as helicopters and ATVs to scour the area in the town east of Toronto. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Giving his best p-p-p-poker face

Toronto's Shyam Srinivasan, 32, finished sixth in the PokerStars Caribbean Adventure (PCA) Main Event, earning $328,020 US. Srinivasan qualified for the event through an online tournament. He finished sixth out of a starting field of 1,031 players from 65 countries and was one of three Canadians in the top eight. CONTRIBUTED

Liberal deal cuts Ontario's auto insurance by 4%

In the slow lane? NDP says Grits need to speed up plan if they're going to reduce rates by 15%

Auto insurance rates have dropped an average of about 4 per cent as part of the minority Liberals' budget deal with the NDP to reduce them by 15 per cent, sources say.

The Financial Services Commission of Ontario, the provincial government's insurance regulator, is expected to formally announce that Wednesday.

That means the Liberals would be halfway to Finance Minister Charles Sousa's promise of an 8 per cent rate cut by August, with an eye toward fulfilling the New Democrats' 15 per cent demand next year.

Sousa has said the changes have to be phased in to allow time to tackle fraud and find other savings to make the auto insurance system more efficient.

But NDP MPP Jagmeet Singh (Bramalea-Gore-Malton), who spearheaded the policy that was a cornerstone of the agreement to win his party's support for Sousa's budget last spring, said "drivers are tired of waiting."

"Eight months after the budget promised a 15 per cent reduction in auto insurance, some drivers are still seeing hikes despite healthy industry profits," Singh told reporters Tuesday at Queen's Park. "They're nowhere near 15 per cent and they're nowhere near the 8 per cent that they promised in one year. It's unacceptable," he said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Fighting fraud

Ontario motorists pay the highest auto insurance premiums in Canada. One reason for that, insurers say, is fraud has been rampant in parts of the GTA.

- Last June, new anti-fraud measures took effect, and the government has been trying to crack down by licensing health clinics that invoice insurance companies.

Bankers fear we can't pay our credit, car loans

While consumers continue to rack up debt on cars and credit cards, bankers are getting more worried that they won't be able to pay it off, a new survey shows.

The latest quarterly survey of Canadian and U.S. bank managers found their expectations for delinquencies on auto loans have hit their highest level since the end of 2012, while concerns for delinquencies on credit cards have risen back up to the level they were at two years ago.

Thirty-two per cent of Canadian bankers expect the balance on credit-card accounts to increase in the next six months, while 25 per cent figure delinquencies on auto loans will grow by mid-year, says the survey released Tuesday by analytics firm FICO.

Despite those expectations, the report found consumer borrowing shows no signs of slowing. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE, WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

We owe $1.64 on every dollar

Statistics Canada reported last month that household debt touched an all-time high during the third-quarter of 2013, inching up 0.6 percentage points to 163.7 per cent over the summer months.

- The increase means Canadians owe nearly $1.64 for every $1 in disposable income they earn in a year.

Andrew Jennings, FICO's chief analytics officer. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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China

Doctor gets death for selling babies

A Chinese court on Tuesday convicted a doctor of baby trafficking and sentenced her to death with a two-year reprieve, after she admitted that she stole babies from the hospital where she worked and sold them.

Zhang Shuxia, an obstetrician, told parents their newborns had congenital problems and persuaded them to give them up, according to a court in Shaanxi. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Breaking Bad

Meth dealers mimic TV show

Kevin Abar, assistant special agent in charge of Home Security Investigations in New Mexico, says distributors are selling blue-tinted meth in the Four Corners — mirroring the hit drama Breaking Bad. Abar says tinting meth is a branding technique but noted the blue meth is making people sick. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quebec government settles in for lengthy charter fight

Entrenched. Party is ready to trumpet ban on religious symbols if election is called

Bernard Drainville, Quebec Minister responsible for Democratic Institutions and Active Citizenship, listens during a legislature committee studying the proposed charter on Tuesday in Quebec City. JACQUES BOISSINOT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Quebec government insists it won't back down on its values charter and is ready to make it an election issue if need be.

Yet the minister responsible for the proposed legislation said Tuesday that such a scenario would clearly be the fault of the two main opposition parties.

Bernard Drainville said the Liberals and the Coalition for Quebec's Future have made it clear they will vote against the provincial budget, which is expected in a few months.

That would topple the Parti Québécois minority government and trigger a provincewide vote, which would likely take place before the charter is voted on.

"That would effectively mean the CAQ (the Coalition) and the Liberals would be making the charter an election issue," Drainville told reporters as public hearings began in Quebec City on the divisive Bill 60.

The bill would forbid public employees from wearing visible religious symbols including hijabs, turbans, kippas and large crucifixes.

Both Drainville and Premier Pauline Marois reiterated Tuesday the government will not be swayed.

Banning "overt religious signs is something we're sticking to," Marois said in Montreal. "It's a basic part of the project."

Drainville said the religious neutrality of the state must be "visible, apparent and concrete."

While Drainville never uses the word "firing," the consequences for employees who flout the law are clear.

"If a government worker considers the wearing of religious signs during work hours to be more important than the religious neutrality of the state and the respect for law, it will be their choice," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Who's my daddy, asks daughter in sperm scandal

University of Utah. Hotline received 17 calls about possible tampering with semen at clinic once operated by faculty members

A 1998 booking photo of Thomas Ray Lippert provided by Salt Lake County Jail. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The suspect is dead, the fertility clinic where he reportedly replaced a customer's sperm with his own no longer operates, and the clinic left no records that might show the extent of the scandal, the University of Utah said Tuesday.

Officials say they may never get to the bottom of a complaint that a convicted felon working at the clinic two decades ago switched his sperm, leaving a now 21-year-old woman asking, "Who am I?"

The mix-up happened in 1991, the clinic shut down the following year and the suspect died in 1999.

The mother of the 21-year-old woman, Pamela Branum, has said she and her husband discovered a genetic mismatch in their daughter and were able to trace her lineage with help from relatives of the now-deceased fertility clinic worker, Thomas Ray Lippert.

Branum said she believes the university hasn't conducted a serious investigation and is trying to conceal the possibility of a wider scandal.

"I thought I was this person (of) my mom and my dad," the family's daughter told CBS affiliate KUTV. "Now, my dad is not my biological father. Who am I?"

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Australians keep their cool in heat wave

People jump into the sea to keep cool at St Kilda Beach on Tuesday in Melbourne, Australia. Temperatures are expected to reach over 40 C in parts of Victoria over the next four days. CRAIG SILLITOE/GETTY IMAGES

Topless fashion shoot draws $1M suit

A fashion photographer is facing a lawsuit for taking pictures of a topless model on the observation deck of the Empire State Building.

The owners of the New York City landmark filed a $1.1 million US lawsuit against Allen Henson for a set of photos he took in August.

According court papers filed Monday, Henson didn't apply for permission and never notified the building about his plans for the photo shoot. Building representatives called it objectionable and inappropriate because the observation deck is a family and tourist attraction.

Henson says the view from atop the building is so breathtaking he didn't think anyone noticed. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Blind drunk? That about sums it up, researchers say

Hermann Grid.
Optical illusion used as part of alcohol impairment research

Ever described someone as "blind drunk"? If so, it seems you were right.

A new study by experts at Western University in London, Ont., shows alcohol really does have an effect on vision.

Using a 144-year-old optical illusion, London researchers have determined that drinking the legal limit of alcohol can impair aspects of vision by 30 per cent.

Yes, the legal limit. Not beyond it.

In findings published in the journal Perception, Kevin Johnston and Brian Timney from the Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry and Western's social science faculty have shown that alcohol greatly affects the ability to adjust vision for brightness and contrast.

A new study shows alcohol really does have an effect on vision.
GETTY IMAGES

That could be a problem when driving at twilight, as the sun dips below the horizon.

"We obviously know that alcohol impairs our decision making and motor skills, but until now, we did not know how alcohol affects our vision," says Johnston, a research scientist at the department of physiology and pharmacology's Laboratory for Neural Circuits and Behaviour.

Johnston and Timney used the Hermann Grid, an optical illusion described by Ludimar Hermann in 1870, to understand how alcohol affects the perception of contrast.

"The Hermann Grid is basically a grid of black squares on a white background. You see ghost-like dark spots at the intersections of the grid, but they are not actually there," explains Johnston. "It's the way our visual system processes contrast or brightness differences that creates this illusion."

MIKE DONACHIE/METRO IN LONDON

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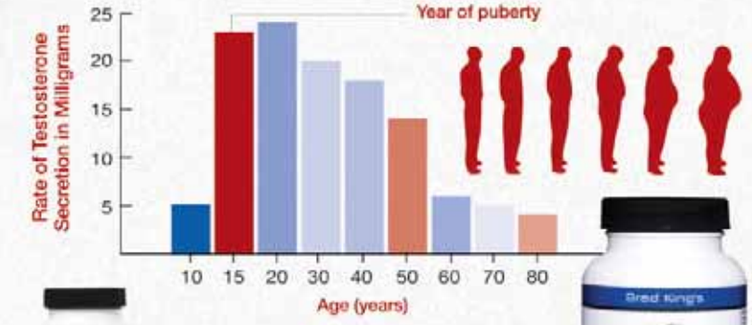

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This July 8, 2004, photo shows a Mexican federal agent crawling through a hidden tunnel, presumably used to transport drugs from Mexico to the U.S. The job of searching these networks can be dangerous, so the U.S. Border Patrol is unveiling its latest technology in the underground war — a wireless, camera-equipped robot that can do the job in a fraction of the time. DAVID MAUNG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Drug tunnels and the robots that patrol them

U.S. border security. With cartels turning to subterranean methods to smuggle drugs into the U.S., officials turn to technology to stop them

As U.S. border security has tightened, drug cartels have turned to tunnelling beneath the ground to avoid detection.

Nearly 170 tunnels have been found nationwide since 1990, most along the Arizona and California border with Mexico. The job of searching these networks can be dangerous, so the U.S. Border Patrol is unveiling its latest technology in the underground war — a wireless, camera-equipped robot that can do the job in a fraction of the time.

Tunnel construction ranges from extremely rudimentary to very sophisticated, with lights, supports and ventilation. They can range from a few feet to nearly a kilometre long.

Smuggling groups use tunnels to move drugs, guns and people who want to sneak across the U.S. border, though traffickers are sometimes selective about what they will move through their tunnels.

So-called tunnel robots have been in use by Border Patrol for several years. They can safely navigate through corrugated pipes, tunnels, and drainage systems while an agent controls the device from the surface, seeing what the robot sees on a handheld screen. The robots are used, in part, as a safety measure to keep agents out of harm's way as many tunnels can be poorly built and possibly collapse and lack proper ventilation.

They also can navigate an underground labyrinth in a fraction of the time it would take an agent to explore the tunnel. Some of the newer robots, which weigh about 5.5 kilograms and can navigate through passageways that are only several feet wide, are being deployed this year across southern Arizona and California. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Violence in Mexico

Confrontation with civilians turns deadly

The Mexican government moved in to quell violence between vigilantes and a drug cartel in Michoacan state, but the campaign turned deadly early Tuesday in the town of Antunez, with a confrontation between soldiers and civilians who witnesses say were unarmed.

There were varying reports of casualties, but journalists saw the bodies of two men said to have died in the clash, and spoke to the family of a third man who was reportedly killed in the same incident. No women or children died, contrary to earlier reports.

The confrontation occurred after townspeople were called to meet a convoy of soldiers who they were told were coming to disarm the self-defence group. Witnesses said the group did not carry guns, but as they blocked the convoy, some soldiers fired into the crowd. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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January 22		
9:00am – 10:30am	**1:00pm – 3:00pm**	
Interactive Analysis: Building an Interactive Variance Calculator	An Introduction to Array Formulas	
February 5		
9:00am – 10:30am	**11:00am – 12:30pm**	**1:00pm – 3:00pm**
Introduction to Optimization Problems Using the Solver Add-in	Making the Most of Email with MS Outlook	Date Based Calculations: Building a Project Schedule Plan
February 19		
9:00am – 10:30am	**11:30am – 12:30pm**	**1:00pm – 3:00pm**
Forecasting Tools: Regression Analysis and Moving Averages	Using MS Outlook and Word Together for Mail Merge	Using the INDIRECT and the INDEX Function for Advanced Lookup Formulas

Professional Development Institute PDI

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Political finance probe. Firm owned by MP Del Mastro's cousin searched

Two people who contributed to MP Dean Del Mastro's 2008 election campaign told investigators they were reimbursed at a profit by a company owned by the MP's cousin, court documents show.

The donations were part of an alleged scheme to skirt political financing rules by concealing the fact they were made by a corporate donor.

"It sounded like a good deal," said one contributor whose name was blacked out in the documents released this week. Another contributor was asked "if friends or family could do this."

The evidence forms part of an ongoing investigation by the Office of the Commissioner of Canada Elections into the activities of Deltro Electric Inc. and its president, David Del Mastro.

Former Conservative MP Dean Del Mastro, who now sits as an Independent, is not a subject of the investigation. No charges have been laid in the case, and the allegations have not been tested in court.

Heavily redacted court documents related to a search warrant request were released this week. Investigators, backed by a technical unit of the RCMP, searched the offices of Deltro in Mississauga, Ont., last fall.

Names of those they spoke to were blacked out in the documents for fear of "potential intimidation" by those who "may be charged in the future."

"I believe … that Deltro Electric Ltd., David Del Mastro and/or his staff, encouraged employees or former employees to make donations that would be reimbursed by Deltro Electric and to enlist friends or family to make similar donations," wrote investigator Ronald Lamothe.

In addition to receiving a $50 bonus with the reimbursement, those who allegedly participated in the scheme could also apply for a tax credit. Investigators estimated the credit at $558 per person.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Stationery. Clement pays back taxpayers for second set of fancy business cards

Among Tony Clement's stack of Christmas bills this year was one to pay taxpayers back for a second set of gold-embossed business cards that broke government rules.

Clement, the Treasury Board president, used his personal credit card last week to reimburse his department $195.98 for cards that were ordered back in 2011, when he first took the cabinet post.

The Jan. 8 payment was in addition to the $434 he reimbursed taxpayers last month for another set of forbidden gold-embossed cards.

Clement has now paid back $630 for improper stationery, which he says was ordered in error by a staff member.

Each set of his cards featured the Arms of Canada decorated with gold leaf, a costly stationery option that has been banned across government since 1994.

Through the Access to Information Act, the Canadian Press obtained invoices, emails and other documents on Dec. 3 showing Clement's office ignored the rules shortly after the Conservatives won a majority in 2011.

Tony Clement

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The same day the documents were released to the news agency, Clement used his Visa card to pay back taxpayers for the first set of business cards. The amount repaid was calculated as the extra cost for having the gold leaf applied. THE CANADIAN PRESS

U.S. Congress

Budget bill could effectively ban horse slaughter

Lawsuits that have repeatedly delayed the opening of horse slaughterhouses in New Mexico and Missouri could be moot if the budget bill up for a vote in Congress this week passes.

The bill released Monday would effectively reinstate a federal ban on horse slaughter by cutting funding for inspections at equine facilities.

Opponents of attempts to resume domestic horse slaughter applauded the measure.

"Americans do not want to see scarce tax dollars used to oversee an inhumane, disreputable horse slaughter industry," said Wayne Pacelle, president and CEO of The Humane Society of the United States. "We don't have dog and cat slaughter plants in the U.S. catering to small markets overseas, and we shouldn't have horse slaughter operations for that purpose, either." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World Wide Worries?

U.S. net neutrality rules set aside by appeals court

In a decision that could reshape Americans' access to online content, a federal appeals court Tuesday set aside FCC rules designed to ensure that transmission of all Internet content be treated equally.

The rules have barred broadband providers from prioritizing some types of Internet traffic over others.

A three-judge panel said that the FCC has the authority to regulate broadband providers' treatment of Internet traffic. However, the judges concluded that the FCC failed to establish that its regulations don't overreach.

"Even though the commission has general authority to regulate in this arena, it may not impose requirements" that violate statutory mandates, wrote appeals judge David Tatel.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hollande angry over tabloid story

Who's first? French president said he will clarify who the first lady is before his trip to the U.S. on Feb. 11

Under pressure over a magazine report that he is having a secret affair with an actress, French President Francois Hollande conceded Tuesday he is going through "painful moments" with his companion but otherwise sidestepped specifics on his personal life.

Hollande's partner, journalist Valerie Trierweiler, has been hospitalized since Friday, when Closer published photos it said proved Hollande's liaison. Speaking at a major news conference, Hollande said Trierweiler "is resting" but insisted that the venue in front of hundreds of reporters was "neither the place nor the moment" to discuss the issue.

The report in the magazine Closer showed photos of a man the magazine identified as Hollande wearing a motorcycle helmet and being ferried on the back of a small scooter to an alleged tryst with film actress Julie Gayet.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"Everyone in his or her personal life can go through ordeals — that's the case with us."

French President Francois Hollande

Referendum: Egyptians vote on a new constitution

An Egyptian man flashes the victory sign as he lines up to vote in the country's constitutional referendum in Cairo on Tuesday. Upbeat and resentful of the Muslim Brotherhood, Egyptians voted on a new constitution in a referendum that will pave the way for a likely presidential run by the nation's top general Abdul-Fattah el-Sisi, months after he ousted Islamist president Mohammed Morsi. KHALIL HAMRA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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South Sudan. Women, kids drown trying to flee

A boat carrying mostly women and children desperately fleeing heavy violence in South Sudan sank while crossing the Nile River, killing some 200 people, a military official said Tuesday, as fighting between rebels and government forces moved closer to the capital.

Warfare in the world's newest state has displaced more than 400,000 people since mid-December, with the front lines constantly shifting as loyalist troops and renegade forces gain and lose territory in battles often waged along ethnic lines.

A boat fleeing violence on the Nile carrying mostly women and children sank on Saturday, killing at least 200 people, according to Lt. Col Aguer, the South Sudanese military spokesman.

He also said there was fighting about 70 kilometres north of the South Sudanese capital of Juba.

Heavy fighting erupted in Malakal, the capital of oil-producing Upper Nile state, which renegade forces briefly held before government troops retook it. The fighting began early Tuesday morning in the vicinity of the United Nations base in Malakal, with combatants using heavy machine-guns and tanks, UN spokesman Martin Nesirky said at UN headquarters in New York.

Stray bullets are reported to have landed inside the UN base, wounding people who sought shelter there, according to Nesirky. As a result of Tuesday's violence, he said, the number of people seeking refuge at the UN base in Malakal has nearly doubled to 20,000.

South Sudan has a history of ethnic rivalry, and its many tribes have long battled each other in recurring cycles of violence. The fighting often pits the Dinka ethnic group of President Salva Kiir against the Nuer group of Riek Machar, the former vice-president who now commands renegade forces.

Nearly 10,000 people have been killed in the latest fighting, according to one estimate by an International Crisis Group analyst.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nigeria. Activists warn against new anti-gay law

First the police targeted the gay men, then tortured them into naming dozens of others who now are being hunted down, human rights activists said Tuesday, warning that such persecution will rise under a new Nigerian law.

The men's alleged crime? Belonging to a gay organization. The punishment? Up to 10 years in jail under the Same Sex Marriage Prohibition Act, which has elicited international condemnation for criminalizing gay marriage, gay organizations and anyone working with or promoting them.

There were varying accounts of how many arrests were made in Nigeria's Bauchi state, and a local law enforcement official denied that anyone was tortured. Nevertheless, the aggressive police action shows that Africa's most populous country is attempting to enforce anti-gay measures that are becoming increasingly common throughout the continent. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rashidi Williams, a gay man, rides in a car in Lagos, Nigeria, in November 2011. SUNDAY ALAMBA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Italy

Anti-immigrant league under fire

The newspaper of Italy's anti-immigrant Northern League party has come under fire for a new feature listing the daily whereabouts of the country's first black Cabinet minister.

The "Here's Cécile Kyenge" feature was launched days after the Congolese-born Kyenge was once again heckled during a weekend appearance in Brescia by Northern League and other right-wing extremists.

Ever since her appointment in April, Kyenge has faced racist taunts from Northern League politicians and activists. She has earned the League's wrath by promising to change Italy's restrictive immigration and citizenship policies.

On Tuesday, lawmakers from Kyenge's Democratic Party and other centre-left politicians called the new feature in the La Padania daily an act of intimidation and demanded it be discontinued. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Romania

Man pleads not guilty to genocide

A man charged with genocide for the deaths of political prisoners at a lockup he commanded when Romania was a Communist country pleaded innocent on Tuesday.

Alexandru Visinescu, 87, is accused of responsibility for the deaths of six inmates at the Ramnicu Sarat prison from 1956 to 1963. Prosecutors said prisoners there were routinely subjected to beatings, hunger, insufficient medical treatment, and exposure to the cold.

No date has been set for Visinescu's trial. During a closed hearing Tuesday, he denied the charge.

About 500,000 Romanians were condemned as political prisoners in the 1950s as the nation's Communist government sought to crush all dissent. Prosecutors say Visinescu participated in efforts to wipe them out. One-fifth of these prisoners died in custody, historians have said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Dependent on boob tube

We are still *very* attached to TV

The rumours of rampant cord-cutting have been exaggerated.

More than 2.5 million Canadian households will have multiple TV subscriptions, paying for TV through a traditional provider and at least one other online TV service, according to a Deloitte study, released Tuesday.

That's up more than 150 per cent from 2012 levels.

By the end of 2014, the number of households that will pay for a second basket of TV content will be more than 100 times greater than the number of households that have cut the cord in 2013 and cancelled their TV subscription, said Duncan Stewart, director of research at Deloitte in Toronto. THE CANADIAN PRESS

The usual suspects. Wireless auction no serious threat to Big 3

Bidding for a coveted piece of Canada's wireless market started Tuesday.

Experts say the 700 megahertz waves up for auction are particularly valuable because they allow cellphone signals to travel longer distances and penetrate buildings and tunnels where calls are often dropped.

The signal also requires fewer cellphone towers to provide coverage in rural areas.

Ten players are in the game, including Canada's big three telecom companies: Bell, Rogers and Telus.

Fourth player

The feds say they want a fourth national player in every region of the country to give consumers more choice and to help lower fees. But, so far no viable competitor to the Big 3 has emerged.

Experts say lack of new competition means this auction won't likely raise as much money as expected, even though it's a valuable piece of spectrum. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

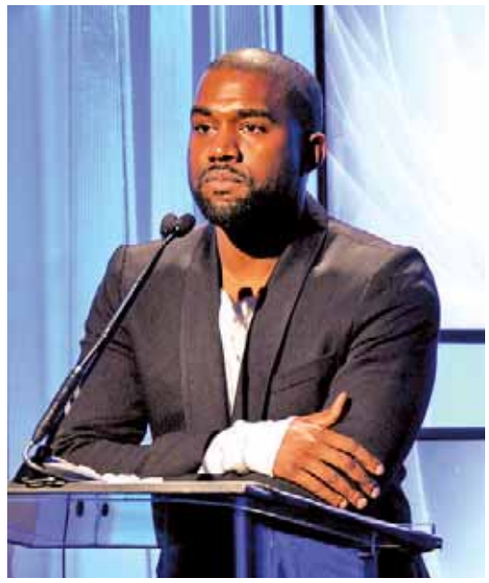
DOLLAR 91.34¢ (-0.86¢)

TSX 13,692.38 (+ 10.90)

OIL $92.59 US (+ $0.79)

GOLD $1,245.40 US (-$5.70)

Natural gas: $4.36 US (+$0.05)
Dow Jones: 16,373.86 (+ 115.92)



Yo, Coinye, I'm not gonna let you finish

Hip hop star Kanye West filed a lawsuit Tuesday in federal court to stop production of "Coinye West" bitcoins, which he says unjustly cash in on his fame. West's lawsuit seeks to stop companies and individuals that have not yet been identified from exchanging the digital currency, and also seeks unspecified damages for hurting West's reputation. As of Tuesday, the Coinye website stated, "Coinye is dead. You win, Kanye." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

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JUST SAYIN'

Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

The Mona Lisa?

Fuhgeddaboudit! The ideal woman, according to the dating site Plenty of Fish, is: "A 25-year-old Catholic woman who owns a dog, describes herself as thin, and drinks alcohol three times a week."

This paragon of femininity is likely to receive more messages than any other woman.

I don't know about you, but she sounds a little high-maintenance to me. A potential three hangovers a week when she stays in bed and you have to walk the stupid dog ... and then you're expected to go to church on Sunday while she tends to her guilty conscience.

Oh, and she's smarter than you are, as somehow she already has a graduate degree at 25.

Unlike previous ideals such as Mona and Helen of Troy, this vision of female perfection is not the obsession of some mooning poet with bad facial hair, but grounded in science: a just-released survey of 81,000 online anglers at Plenty of Fish.

So, as you're (literally) making up your online profile, here are some other science-based tips:

— Dogs are good, but only in the abstract. Women who post photos of themselves with the actual Rottweiler don't get as many messages.

— Don't state your age as 33, because 33-year-olds get the lowest number of messages. Further research (random numerology websites) shows 33 people described as: "Healers, compassionate, blessings, teacher of teachers, martyr, inspiration, honesty, discipline, bravery, courage." No wonder. Who can live up to that?

— Finally, whatever you do, drink. Women who say they abstain from alcohol get 24 per cent fewer messages.

I guess this profile says more about the guys doing the fishing than the female fish. The ideal woman sounds like the proverbial Good Sport. I'm surprised she doesn't come with a plaid shirt and a pickup truck.

But it doesn't matter what guys want, does it?

The ideal guy, as chosen by female fishers of men, earns between $100,000 and $150,000 a year. It helps to have a doctorate, MD or law degree. And, of course, you want to have children, even if you're too busy earning $150k to remember their names.

You apparently don't have to worry about your age, but you should also have dark hair, so I presume that means you should still have hair. Also, the longer your, er, bio, the more likely you are to get a reply. Women like a man who can talk at length about himself. Right.

After reading this survey, I am no longer surprised about that other statistic: More than half of marriages end up in divorce.

Good thing there are still plenty of fish in the sea, even if they are 33.

ZOOM

Hella wicked sight made of sound

COURTESY DLR

Helicopter noise seen for first time

Scientists have revealed why helicopters produce the noise they do — by showing for the first time the sound waves from their rotor blades.

Researchers from the German Aerospace Center in Göttingen developed a way of taking pictures of vortices that form at the blades' tips. METRO

Making vortices

As the rotor blades punch through the atmosphere, they create a vortex at their tips, caused by a difference in pressure around the blade (reduced pressure above the blade and an area of increased pressure below it).

As the rotors spin and hit the vortices of their adjacent blades, they produce the helicopter's distinctive "carpet beater" noise. METRO

Copter rocks it

In this image, blade-tip vortices are visible as dark lines during a complete rotation of the main rotor.

The engine exhaust flows are perceptible as a noisy area trailing the helicopter. The tail rotor's vortex system is also visible (black, circular lines on the tail rotor). The helicopter is pictured performing a rocking manoeuvre. METRO

Experts track bent light to spot sound

To photograph the vortices, scientists at DLR used a light-tracking technique called the Background Oriented Schlieren Method.

Light rays are refracted as they travel through sections of atmosphere with varying densities. This phenomenon is seen against a suitable background — in this case, a limestone quarry. METRO

Clickbait

LUKE SIMCOE
Metro Online

With Bitcoin becoming increasingly mainstream, hipster speculators and economic-rollercoaster fans are looking elsewhere for their crypto-currency fix. Bitcoin's software is actually open source, meaning anyone can copy it and make their own version. Here are some people who did.

COURTESY DOGECOIN

Litecoin:

Often described as "the silver to Bitcoin's gold," Litecoin was one of the first Bitcoin alternatives on the market. It's also seen a sharp rise in value, currently trading at about $23 per coin. Unlike its predecessor — which required massive computing power to mine effectively — it's easier to mine with the average PC.

Dogecoin:

If you prefer your digital dollars in meme form, then Dogecoin is for you. Named after the smiling Shiba Inu dog who became the most popular Internet meme of 2013, the currency started as a joke but gained value as more users jumped on the bandwagon. Wow.

Letters

RE: Health Authority to Probe Deaths of 2 Patients Shortly after Hospital Discharge, published online Friday, Jan. 10

I just wanted to comment on the story about the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority and the two people that died ... it is a horrible thing! But I don't think they should be passing the blame on to the Taxi Cab Board.

Sure, they likely should have a policy in place to make sure people get into their houses ... however, that is not the main problem or fault here!

It is the fact that the hospitals are not getting people well before they send them home, PLUS they are not phoning a relative or caregiver that they are releasing these people. Someone should know that they are going home! Then the problem would not be happening at all.

Rosemarie Menzies, Winnipeg

Who is expecting them?

"Someone should know that they are going home!"

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU:
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SCENE 2

Chris Pine ready for duty as latest Jack Ryan recruit

Man of many faces. As the fourth Jack Ryan, Pine wants to 'stay true' to Tom Clancy's famous character

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

In your mind's eye when you picture ex-Marine turned CIA analyst Jack Ryan, who do you see?

Is he a dark-haired, suave six-foot movie star with a hot temper and a racy Twitter account? Or maybe a world-weary fellow with a scar on his chin and a resemblance to Indiana Jones? Or how about the Red Sox fan formerly known as Bennifer?

Created by writer Tom Clancy, Jack Ryan is the lead character in nine novels and the star of five films. This weekend we'll see him uncover a Russian plot to destroy the U.S. economy with a terrorist attack in Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit.

Chris Pine, best known as Captain Kirk in the recently rebooted Star Trek series, is the newest member of the Ryanverse, and hopes to bring something new to the character.

"I can't be Alec Baldwin," he told Empire. "I can't be Harrison Ford. I can only really do my own thing and stay true to the pillars of this character."

Baldwin originated Ryan on screen in the 1990 high-tech thriller The Hunt for Red October.

The movie could have been the beginning of a James Bond-esque franchise for Baldwin, but he left the series after just one outing despite the film being one of the top grossing movies of the year. In a Huffington Post blog he says he was pushed aside for another actor "with much greater strength at the box office."

Baldwin doesn't name names, but Harrison Ford soon signed on, playing Ryan in Patriot Games and Clear and Present Danger.

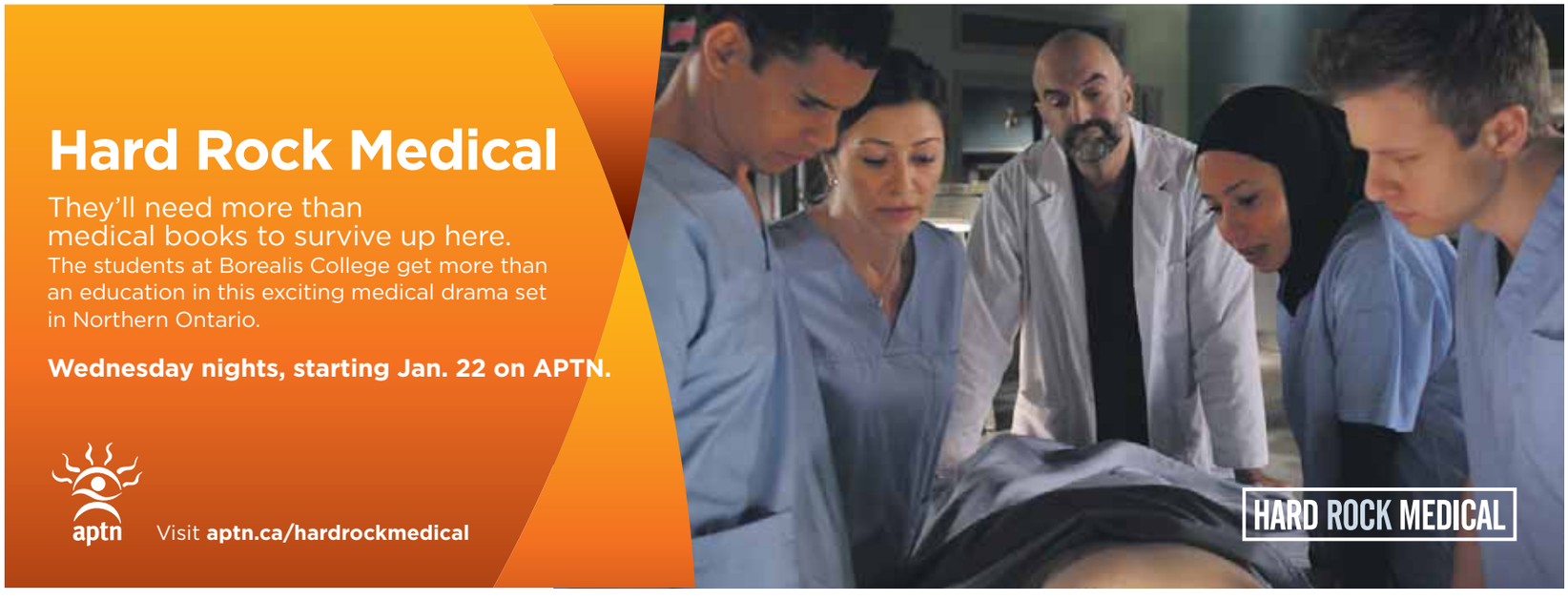
Author Clancy, who passed away in 2013, was not a fan of the Ford years. He thought the two movies dumbed down his original stories and thought Ford was too old to play the role. "Giving your book to Hollywood is like turning your daughter over to a pimp," he said.

Next up was Ben Affleck, who took over in the 2002 prequel The Sum of All Fears.

"The day I received the offer to play Jack Ryan," said Affleck, "I was filming a Pearl Harbor scene with Alec Baldwin. He was very sweet and said I should do it."

The part's originator has become the go-to guy with actors who sign up to play Ryan. When he was offered the part, Pine was shooting Guardians of the Galaxy with Baldwin. "He urged me to hold onto it," said Pine, "and to attack it."

Chris Pine stars as Jack Ryan in Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit. CONTRIBUTED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Big Bad Wolves has quite the bite

Bloody great. Violent Israeli thriller adored by Quentin Tarantino is a cinematic heavy hitter

CHRIS ALEXANDER
scene@metronews.ca

Lior Ashkenazi and Menashe Noy star in Big Bad Wolves, which opens Friday in Toronto CONTRIBUTED

Though we haven't the foggiest how many new movies Quentin Tarantino actually watched last year, the maverick director's assessment of Israeli filmmakers Aharon Keshales and Navot Papushado's shattering revenge thriller Big Bad Wolves as "the best film of the year" is hyperbole worth considering. It's really that good.

"We met him in Busan film festival," Keshales told Metro of the event surrounding the screening QT saw.

"Mr. Tarantino came to see the film and at the end, during the Q and A, he raised his hand and said all the beautiful things he said about Big Bad Wolves. He also talked to Navot after the screening and gave us some advice. He did an amazing thing for our film and we feel blessed to have our idol endorsing our film."

Tarantino's thumbs up may have put Big Bad Wolves on the pop culture radar, but its power to shock and provoke is distinctly the work of its creators. Their 2012 sleeper gem Rabies turned heads internationally and Wolves pushes that picture's blackly comic, ultra-violent ferocity into new, troubling and yet amusing directions.

In it, a rogue policeman and a desperate father kidnap and brutalize the mild-manner teacher they suspect is behind a spate of child murders. But that's just the meat and potatoes set-up of this masterful, serpentine shocker, one that treads a fine line between satire and outright horror show.

"When dealing with such a delicate subject, you have to trust your intuition and gut feeling," the director says.

"If you feel you're crossing a line then you're crossing a line. If you think you're doing something in a very bad taste then you're doing it. Another recommendation is to give the script to the more delicate souls in your family, like my mother. If she can read it to the last page without tossing it away in shock then you did good. If she laughs, well you just managed to fiendishly manipulate the most tender heart in the world."

Violent, imaginative and super-stylish, the critically revered Big Bad Wolves has firmly put the duo on the map as forces of dark fiction filmmaking and is paving the way for their next projects including a segment in the upcoming ABC's Of Death 2 as well as a surreal, typically violent, atypically Israeli, spaghetti western, currently in pre-production.

"Never in our wildest dreams have we thought we'd get such a strong international response (from our work),"says Keshales.

"After Rabies we decided to make a film that took the revenge theme to the absurd. We have a moral stand in Big Bad Wolves but still we didn't how people would react to this new approach and the things we have to say about the 'macho men' in our country."

Big Bad Wolves opens Friday.

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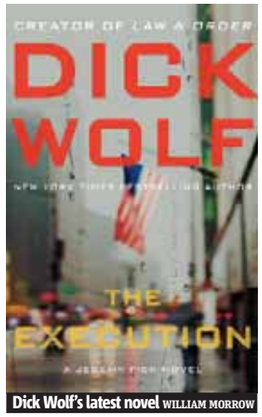
THE OTHER SIDE

Prolific Wolf premieres latest cop drama, still finds time to write a book

Chicago P.D. Veteran producer shows no signs of slowing down with high hopes for newest shows



Dick Wolf's latest novel WILLIAM MORROW

Jason Beghe as Detective Sgt. Hank Voight, left, and Sophia Bush as Erin Lindsay in a scene from Chicago P.D. MATT DINERSTEIN/NBC/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hours before last week's premiere of his new series, Chicago P.D., Dick Wolf acknowledged he was nervous. Actually, "terrified" was the word he used.

This from a TV impresario whose credits include the hydra-headed Law & Order franchise and whose shows have been a prime-time mainstay every season for a quarter-century.

The morning after it premiered, Wolf would learn that a solid 8.6 million viewers had tuned in.

Airing Wednesdays on Global at 10 p.m. ET/PT, the show is centred around the Chicago Police Department's scrappy Intelligence Unit; the series pits Detective Sgt. Hank Voight and his team against the worst killers, drug traffickers and mobsters the Windy City can deliver.

A righteous cop who plays dirty when he needs to, Voight is in good hands with series star Jason Beghe in a portrayal that began on last season's Chicago Fire, an action drama about big-city firefighters, which is midway through its second robust season. (Chicago Fire airs Tuesdays on Global at 10 p.m. ET/PT.)

At 67, Wolf is a veteran producer whose resumé reaches back to Miami Vice in the mid-1980s, and who, through much of the past two decades, kept the lights on at NBC when it had little else anybody would watch.

His métier is the full-scale broadcast network drama spanning a season of two dozen self-contained episodes, and with it he prospers, even now in an era when edgy cable fare in serialized gulps of a dozen or fewer hours commands much of TV's buzz and critical acclaim.

Wolf drew an analogy between the indie-film model of these cable-TV series as compared with broadcast networks' mainstream-movie paradigm in describing Chicago P.D. as "a big, old-time television top-drawer series production."

Last week Wolf was also marking the publication of his latest novel.

The Execution brings back NYPD Detective Jeremy Fisk, whom Wolf introduced in his first novel, The Intercept. Now Fisk's Joint Terrorism Task Force is back on high alert as an elusive assassin heads to Manhattan for United Nations Week.

"There are stories that are just too big for a series episode or even an arc," said Wolf when asked what prompted his literary ventures.

But how did Wolf, with his TV empire to tend, find time to be an author?

"I've got small kids," he replied with a laugh before sharing iPhone photos of his 6-year-old daughter and 3-year-old son. "I have a very pleasant existence in Montecito (Calif.). I'm on a school schedule now, home in the morning 90 per cent of the time. So writing became a routine."

What he called "my quiet hope" is that these thrillers and their hero might inspire an annual Jeremy Fisk miniseries.

But weekly, scripted drama remains Wolf's true forte. He considers himself a businessman generating inventory with a lucrative afterlife as cable repeats.

"The stakes are so huge for the next decade!" he said, picturing the same happy prospect for his Chicago shows.

Meanwhile, he's thinking internationally. He produces a Law & Order edition for the United Kingdom, Law & Order: Criminal Intent in France and Russian versions of CI and SVU, among other global iterations.

"I'd really like that to happen with (Chicago) Fire and P.D.," he said. "Every big city on the planet has a police department and a fire department. How about Paris Fire?"

And all the better if, back home, this domestic duo spawns a third Chicago series. How about Chicago Justice?

"From your lips to Mr. Nielsen's ears," Wolf replied. "But there's no possibility of that happening unless P.D. succeeds. So believe me when I say that our entire focus is getting this one to work." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"Is it retro? Not to me. I just think it's a really good cop show."

Dick Wolf, TV Producer
On Chicago P.D.'s two dozen self-contained episodes on broadcast television

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Science guy? Seth MacFarlane explores the final frontier in new Cosmos series

Seth MacFarlane, creator of Family Guy and voice of Stewie on the animated Fox show, is bringing his love of space exploration to television.

He's the executive producer of Cosmos: A Spacetime Odyssey, a 13-part series that will debut March 9 on Fox. It will also air on the National Geographic Channel.

Best known for his profane animated series and Oscar-hosting duties last year, MacFarlane's head has been in the stars since he first saw Carl Sagan's original Cosmos: A Personal Voyage as a youngster.

MacFarlane suggested to Cosmos host Neil deGrasse Tyson that the show should be pitched to Fox to garner a broader audience.

Seth MacFarlane talks to the Television Critics Association about the new space exploration series Cosmos: A Spacetime Odyssey. FREDERICK M. BROWN/GETTY IMAGES

"I was pleasantly greeted with enthusiasm, and I didn't have to stop doing Stewie or anything," MacFarlane told the Television Critics Association on Monday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

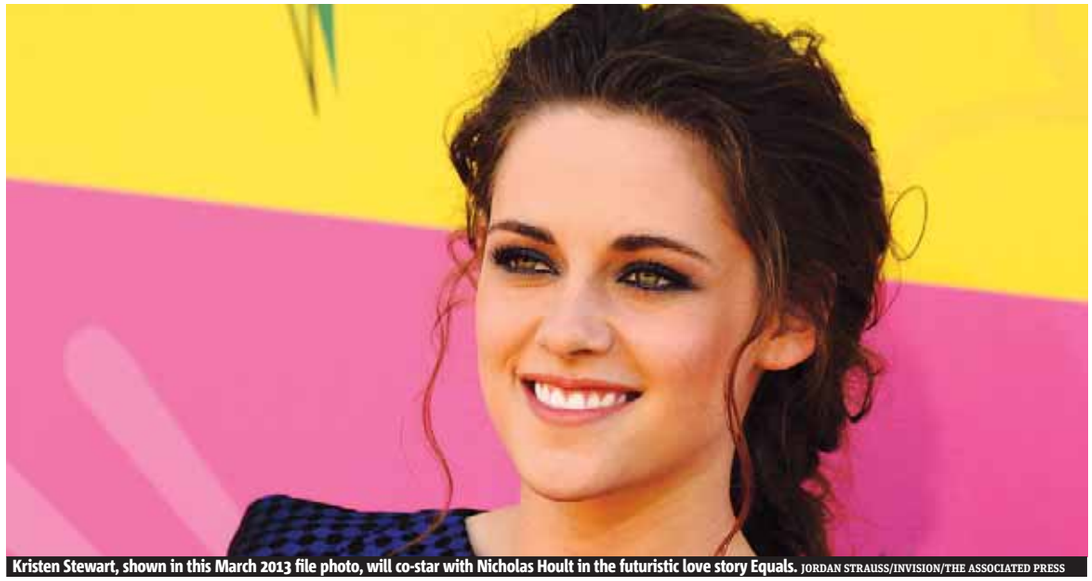
Stewart 'terrified' to take on Equals

Fearing the future. Actress says she can't believe she agreed to work on Drake Doremus' ambitious new sci-fi drama

Quoted

"It's a love story of epic, epic, epic proportion. I'm scared."

Kirsten Stewart
On playing the lead in Equals



Kristen Stewart, shown in this March 2013 file photo, will co-star with Nicholas Hoult in the futuristic love story Equals. JORDAN STRAUSS/INVISION/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kristen Stewart has signed on to play the lead in Like Crazy director Drake Doremus' futuristic love story Equals, and it's making her a nervous wreck.

"I can't believe I agreed to do it," said the Twilight actress about her upcoming role in the sci-fi drama, which also stars Nicholas Hoult of the upcoming X-Men: Days of Future Past.

Stewart describes Equals as a slightly updated version of the 1956 film 1984, based on George Orwell's classic novel about rebellion in a repressed futuristic society. Equals begins filming later this year.

"I'm terrified of it," said the 23-year-old actress in a recent interview. "Though it's a movie with a really basic concept, it's overtly ambitious."

"In Equals, things go wrong because you can't deny the humanity in everyone," said Stewart. "It's the most devastating story."

Adds Doremus of his sixth film: "It's about love in a world where love really doesn't exist anymore."

Written by Nathan Parker (Moon), Equals is the first film Doremus will direct that he didn't write himself.

"I trust Drake's process and I know we will do something really natural and real," said Stewart. "But I told Drake, 'Don't expect that I am going to be able to do this. It's too hard.' But he wouldn't take 'no' for an answer. I've given directors disclaimers before, but never this much."

Jennifer Lawrence, who appeared in 2011's Like Crazy, was one of the first actresses to read Parker's script. Though the story brought her to tears, she couldn't see herself in the role, said Doremus.

"It became evident in my head that Nick and Kristen would have great chemistry," the director said.

This week, the actress heads to the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah, where she'll star in writer-director Peter Sattler's soldier film Camp X-Ray.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Justin Bieber ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Police scramble to crack case of egg-regious vandalism

Detectives searched Justin Bieber's home looking for surveillance footage that might serve as evidence the pop star was involved in an egg-tossing vandalism case that caused thousands of dollars in damage to a neighbour's home, an official said Tuesday.

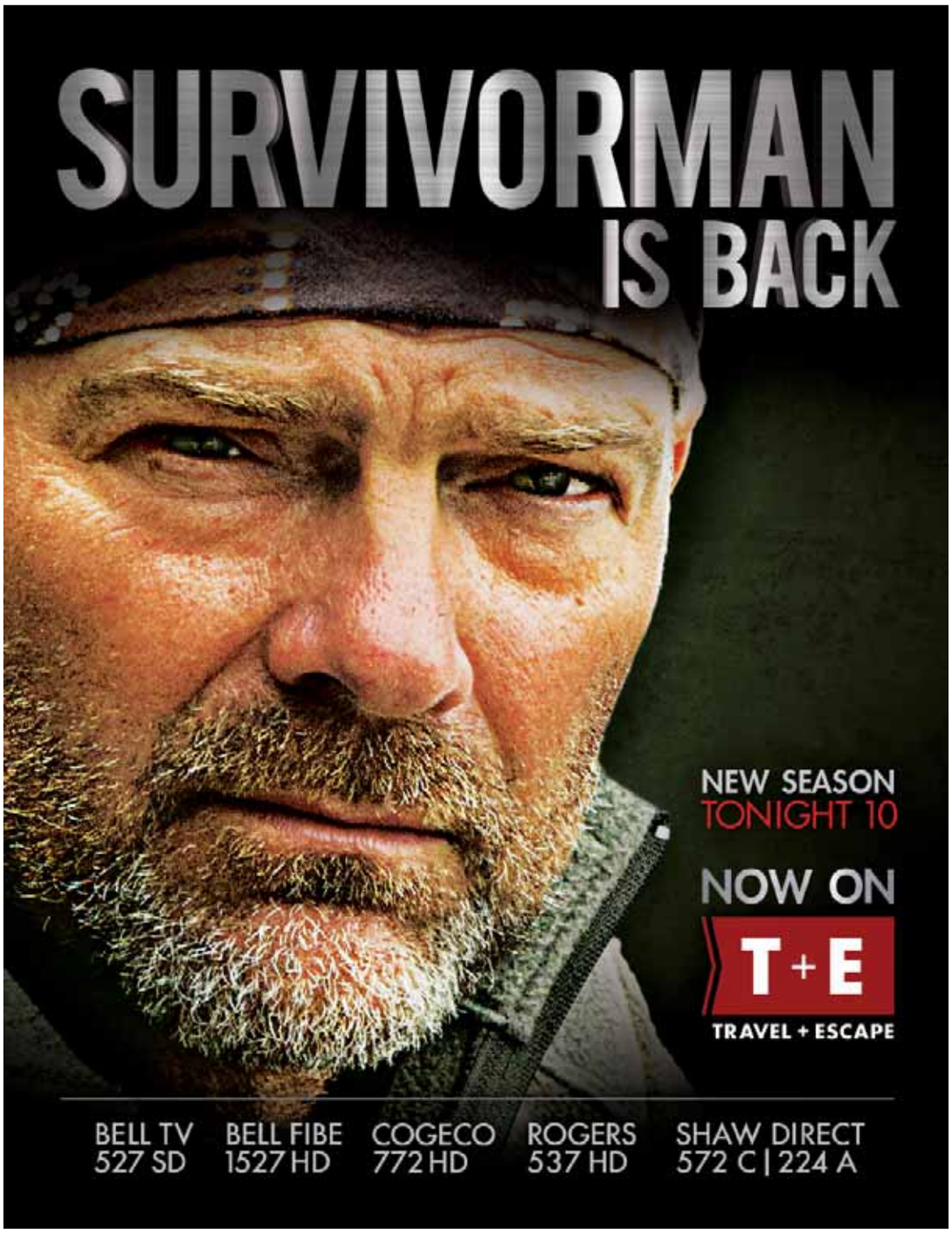
Roughly a dozen investigators searched Bieber's home and arrested one member of the singer's entourage on suspicion of cocaine possession, Lt. David Thompson said.

The man was later identified as Lil Za, a rapper whose real name is Xavier Smith. Jail records show Smith, 20, was being held in lieu of $20,000 US bail. Thompson said the cocaine linked to Smith was in plain sight when detectives searched Bieber's house.

Bieber, 19, was at the home and co-operated with authorities but was not interviewed by detectives. Thompson said he expected the singer to speak with detectives when his attorney could be present.

"He has not been arrested, nor has he been exonerated," Thompson said of Bieber.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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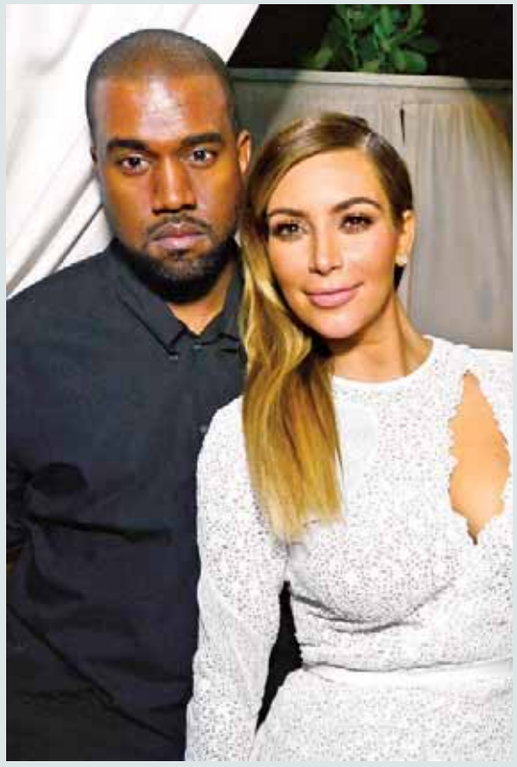

Investigation underway after Kimye chiropractor confrontation

MELINDA TAUB
Metro World News

The Beverly Hills Police Department has some questions for Kanye West.

The rapper allegedly walked into a chiropractor's office on Monday and punched a young man who had been haranguing him and his fiancée, Kim Kardashian, with a torrent of racial slurs. Police have confirmed they are conducting an investigation into the incident.

"On Monday, January 13th at approximately 12:15 PM, the Beverly Hills Police Department responded to the 8800 block of Wilshire Blvd. regarding a Misdemeanor Battery that just occurred at the location. The named suspect was identified as Kanye West by the victim and several witnesses," the Beverly Hills Police said in a statement.

"Mr. West had left the location prior to Officers' arrival. As of this writing, BHPD Detectives are conducting a follow-up investigation. No further information at this time."

Apparently, the young man tried to help Kardashian into the medical building in Beverly Hills and started shouting slurs including the n-word at the paparazzi.

When Kardashian asked him not to use the term, he allegedly cursed her off as well, repeating the slur.

After Kim called Kanye for help, the young man cursed him out too.

Of course I would never condone violence, but I find myself very much with Team Kimye on this one.

Casa de Campo's Teeth of the Dog course was designed by Pete Dye, who is renowned for his radical designs. COURTESY CASA DE CAMPO

Bikinis, beaches and birdies

Casa de Campo. Dominican Republic resort boasts best golf course in the Caribbean

BRIAN KENDALL
canadiangolftraveller.com

In golf, as in fashion, it's impossible to overestimate the marketing clout of a bikini-clad supermodel.

Already a favourite among the game's cognoscenti, Casa de Campo instantly became a must-play destination for red-blooded golfers everywhere when the posh Dominican Republic resort provided the tropical backdrop for Elle Macpherson and other beauties in the 1987 Sports Illustrated swimsuit issue.

"Sports Illustrated was the breakthrough we'd been waiting for," says Montreal-born Gilles Gagnon, Casa de Campo's director of golf since 1980. "It showcased a unique course and an exotic Caribbean setting that golfers wanted to tick off their bucket list along with St. Andrews and Pebble Beach."

Today, Casa de Campo ranks among the world's elite resorts, attracting, among others, billionaires, former U.S. presidents and movie stars who come to golf, play polo, skeet shoot, frolic in the surf and otherwise enjoy a sprawling 7,000-acre retreat so big and ripe with possibilities that hotel guests are given golf carts to get around the grounds.

But even more than Sports Illustrated, Casa de Campo's success has rested from its opening in 1971 on the brilliance of Teeth of the Dog, the marquee attraction of the property's three Pete Dye-designed courses. Dye, now 88, is renowned for his often radical designs at TPC Sawgrass and other celebrated courses. He was hired by then owners Gulf + Western to literally chisel a course from the oceanfront site's razor-sharp coral rock, called "dientes del perro" (teeth of the dog in Spanish) by his frustrated Dominican crew.

Planted sprig by sprig using machete-sharpened sticks, Dye's generous fairways wind through now mature stands of coconut palms, gumbo-limbo trees and bougainvillea. The real fun begins closer to the greens, where sand and water and severe drop-offs demand surgically precise approach shots. Most unforgettable of all are the seven oceanside holes, including the eponymous 16th, a long and treacherous par three set in a rock cove roughly shaped like a dog's snapping jaws.

A hands-on perfectionist, Dye, who used to own a home on the property, has spent half a lifetime tweaking and even massively reworking Teeth of the Dog and the resort's two other courses.

Reopened in early 2012 after a major reconstruction, The Links is a 6,900-yard inland layout played around man-made lakes and through tall roughs of bahia and guinea grass. And, perched on windswept bluffs overlooking the Chavon River, Dye Fore, a rolling and starkly bare behemoth that launched to rave reviews in 2003, has been expanded from 18 to 27 holes. Dye Fore's new nine, Lakes, snakes dramatically around 25 acres of ponds.

For the non-golfers

- **Resort amenities.** The hotel recently completed a $40 million refurbishment and guests can enjoy the pool, spa and private villas.
- **Polo anyone?** There are weekly polo matches as well as skeet and trap shooting at the 300-station shooting centre.

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Survive those winter airport blues

Over the last month, we've seen thousands of frustrated travellers delayed or stranded in airports across the country. With weeks of winter weather still ahead of us, here's a quick course in Winter Travel 101.

ON THE MOVE
Loren Christie
life@metronews.ca

Flight cancelled?

If your flight is cancelled, you will be automatically re-accommodated on the next available flight. How soon depends on the frequency of service to your destination. The challenge during peak travel periods is that flights are often full. It could take days. If you initially have trouble re-booking your cancelled flight, it is worth checking back frequently as larger airlines like Air Canada may try to add more flights when extra crew and capacity become available. If your flight is cancelled, you are entitled to a refund for the unused portion of your ticket.

Flight delayed?

In the case of weather-related delays, there are no set rules that airlines in Canada have to follow. Each airline does, however, spell out its passengers' rights in its condition of carriage, a lengthy document that outlines exactly what compensation you can expect from your air carrier in case things go wrong. WestJet will provide you, depending on the length of the delay, with meal and taxi vouchers as well as an overnight stay in a hotel if you are not in your home city. The compensation varies from airline to airline.

It's all in the plan

Book the first flight out in the morning to ensure you are aren't waiting for your aircraft to arrive. Avoid layovers, and if you're heading south and need to make a connection, skip cities like Chicago and Boston and transfer through Miami and Houston, which are less affected by winter storms. If you can, only bring a carry on as it saves time on both ends. Consider buying interruption insurance, which will cover a portion of your unexpected expenses even if the causes are weather-related.

Control your destiny

Check the status of your flight before leaving for the airport, even if the sky is blue. Bad weather in another city can have a domino effect. Bring along phone numbers for the airline and your travel agent in case you need them. If there are big storms and cancellations, the sooner you can get re-booked the better. Don't rely on one person at the airline to help — think outside the box. If you're scheduled to fly from Fort Lauderdale, maybe you can get on a flight out of Miami. Don't forget to look into rental cars, buses or trains in extreme situations.

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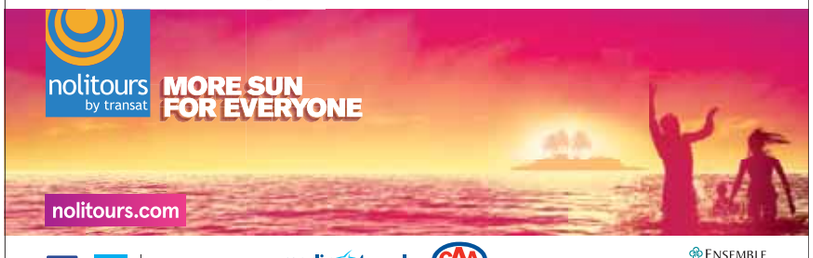

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Building a winter wonderland

Ice castles. How a man turned creating ice towers for his kids into tourist attractions

About 8,000 people have visited the New Hampshire castle since it opened on Dec. 27. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Farming is tough during a New Hampshire winter — unless you're growing icicles.

At the base of Loon Mountain in Lincoln, an ice castle not unlike the frosty palace in the Disney movie Frozen is rising from the ground, one icicle at a time. It's one of three ice castles being built by the same company — the others are in Breckenridge, Colo., and Midway, Utah — this winter.

Brent Christensen, who now lives in Hawaii, started his Ice Castles company a few years ago after spending several winters building elaborate slides and ice towers for his kids in his backyard in Utah. He initially sprayed water onto wooden frames, only to be left with a tangled mess of splintered wood in spring. The next year, he experimented with blocks of ice, building a small igloo to which he added chunks of snow and ice.

"During that process, I almost accidentally started thinking about icicles," he said. "At first it was just for cosmetics. I thought, 'This will look really cool.' And then, with time, I stumbled on the idea of crisscrossing the icicles, and that's when I found ... you can actually grow them in certain ways."

Eventually, he approached ski areas about building larger structures that could serve as temporary art installations and tourist attractions, and the idea took off. It costs tens of thousands of dollars to build the castles, the largest of which spans about an acre, and visitors pay $8 to $10 US to walk through them. About 8,000 people have visited the New Hampshire castle since it opened Dec. 27.

The castles will continue growing during the season, until they melt in March. Walls that stand eight to 20 feet could reach 40 to 60 feet in the next month or so, and icicles placed along the tops of walls will become ceilings. But it takes a lot of work, said Cory Livingood, foreman of the New Hampshire castle's crew.

The process starts in the fall, with the installation of elaborate sprinkler systems. When the weather turns cold, water is sprayed onto metal racks to produce thousands of icicles that are harvested and stuck to the ground around sprinkler heads. The icicles are then drenched in water and, depending on the temperature and wind, grow in various shapes and formations.

"We're technically farmers," Livingood said. "We grow icicles, we handpick them, harvest them, take them out and hand place them around sprinklers, and then we turn on those sprinklers and they grow more."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"We're technically farmers. We grow icicles, we handpick them, harvest them, take them out and hand place them around sprinklers."

Cory Livingood, foreman of the New Hampshire castle's crew

Contest

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To winter sports enthusiasts, Taos is best known for its challenging skiing. But this northern New Mexico town has plenty more to offer visitors year-round, on and off the slopes. A hipper little sister of sorts to Santa Fe, Taos is known for its diverse outdoor offerings as well as its funky town square packed full of history, art galleries and Hispanic and Native American culture.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

4 Free things to do in Taos, N.M.

Rio Grande Gorge Bridge

This steel deck arch bridge spans one of New Mexico's most scenic vistas. Located about 17 kilometres northwest of Taos along U.S. 64, the famous bridge sits high above New Mexico's mini-Grand Canyon, though just how high varies depending on whom you ask, with the state Department of Transportation saying 600 feet (183 metres). The adjacent park offers plenty of parking for those who want to walk across the bridge, visit vendors or enjoy walking trails that offer stunning views of the gorge and the river far below. Also nearby are the Stagecoach Hot Springs, a.k.a. "hippie holes." About a 15-minute hike down a path at the end of Tune Road, the pools are located along the edge of the river in the ruins of an old stagecoach stop. With water temperatures of about 36 C, they are a year-round favourite. Clothing is optional.

Earthship Community

Almost two kilometres up the road from the gorge is Tres Piedras, home to a colony of self-sustaining homes that look like spaceships embedded in the scenic landscape. There are about 70 homes in the 256-hectare subdivision, all made from all recycled materials. There are no water lines, power lines or sewer lines and lot of owners are not allowed to drill wells. All water comes from the rain and snow that land on the roof. And sewage systems are self-contained. The community is also the headquarters of one of the early leaders in the sustainable building movement, Earthship Biotecture. There is a centre where visitors can learn more about the movement, as well as nightly rentals for those who want to experience truly sustainable living.

Arroyo Seco

Called simply Seco by locals, this village is about 11 kilometres east of Taos on the road to the ski valley. On warm days, you might find local potters working on their wheels along the main street. Just off State Road 150, north of the Abominable Snowmansion hostel, you'll find a traditional, colourful northern New Mexican neighbourhood cemetery (photography is frowned upon). Each Fourth of July, you can join thousands of locals from surrounding areas to watch one of New Mexico's homegrown Independence Day parades, complete with Western themes, horseback riders and even a popular grill-themed float.

San Francisco de Asis

Just over six kilometres south of Taos, in the village of Ranchos de Taos, sits what is arguably one of the most painted and photographed churches in the world. Built between 1772 and 1816, the traditional adobe, mud and straw Spanish mission structure is synonymous with New Mexico, and was made famous by painter Georgia O'Keeffe and photographers Ansel Adams and Paul Strand. O'Keeffe described it as "one of the most beautiful buildings left in the United States by the early Spaniards."

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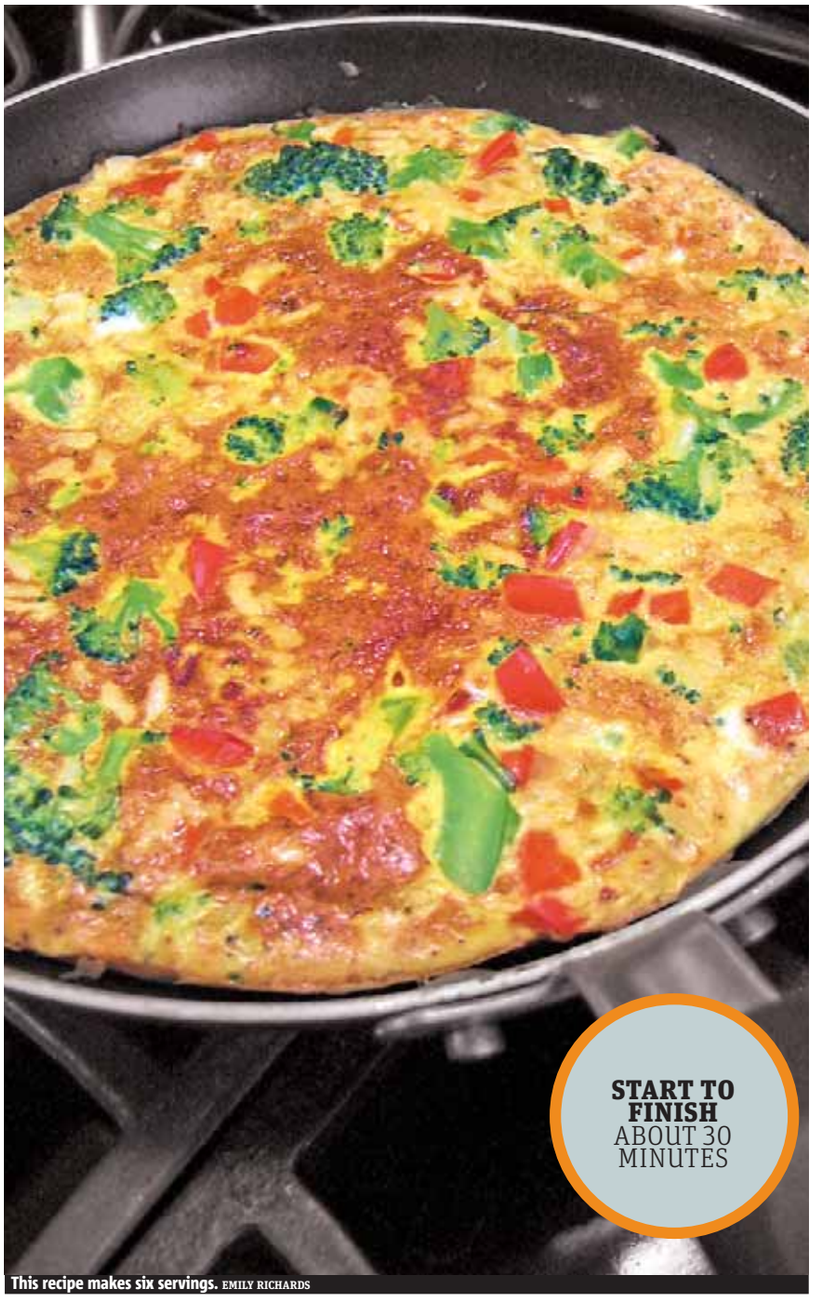
Quick meal helps to clean out fridge, too



This recipe makes six servings. EMILY RICHARDS

Vegetable and Rice Frittata. This dish is great because of its versatility. Use leftover rice and veggies or add your own flavours

DINNER EXPRESS
Emily Richards
food@metronews.ca

This vegetarian frittata can be served up with a green salad. Busy night? Start your dinner with a warm bowl of soup and then take a wedge of this with you for a quick meal on the run

It's just as good the next day, served up for lunch with some pasta sauce.

This quick, simple dinner is also a wonderful way to clean out the fridge by using up leftover rice and perhaps even last night's cooked vegetables.

Ingredients

- 2 tsp (10 ml) canola oil
- 1 shallot, finely chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 cups (500 ml) chopped fresh or frozen broccoli
- Half red bell pepper, diced
- 1 tsp (5 ml) curry powder
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) vegetable broth
- 1 cup (250 ml) cooked brown rice
- 4 eggs
- 3 egg whites
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) each salt and fresh ground black pepper

1. In an 8 inch (20 cm) heat-proof nonstick skillet, heat oil over medium heat. Cook shallot and garlic for 2 minutes or until softened. Stir in broccoli, red pepper and curry powder to coat. Add broth, cover and cook for 5 minutes or until broccoli is tender. Stir in rice to coat.

2. Meanwhile, in bowl, whisk eggs, egg whites, salt and ground pepper. Pour over veg mixture, lifting and stirring eggs into the mix with a spatula. Cover and cook for about 8 minutes or until edges are set and puffed. Broil about 6 inches (15 cm) away from broiler for 2 to 4 minutes or until knife inserted in centre comes out clean and top is golden brown.

FLASH FOOD

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Cooking tips

- This recipe is a great way to use up leftover rice. Whether it is white or brown or sticky rice it will work well. No rice? No problem. When shopping, you can pick up pre-cooked rice that is ready when you are, so no need to cook the rice at home and wait an extra 20 minutes to make the frittata.
- If using frozen broccoli, be sure to thaw if before for best results. The extra water will dilute the flavour in the frittata.
- This dish is also great with peas, potatoes, asparagus or zucchini if that is what you had in your fridge.

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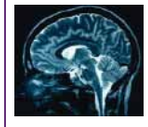

Inclusion criteria:
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Hungry for a career that helps others?

Food for thought. A dietitian is a health-care career option worth digesting

ROSIE HALES
TalentEgg.ca

In Canada, opportunities for aspiring dietitians are more abundant than one might think. Check out this introduction to a dietitian's role and learn some of the perks of the job.

But don't get a dietitian confused with a nutritionist!

What exactly does a nutritionist do?

A nutritionist may have studied nutrition at a graduate level at an accredited institution.

In school, nutritionists study food and the body. Nutritionists identify and help eliminate any health issues that may be stemming from certain foods.

As a dietitian you could end up writing food columns for different media outlets, developing recipes or even writing cookbooks. ISTOCK

They can help with food sensitivities or allergies and can also determine where any deficiencies in food intake may lie.

Drawing on their expert knowledge, nutritionists can make sure that you don't miss out on any important food groups or nutrients.

How is that different from a dietitian?

Generally, dietitians are linked into the medical field and a visit to them will often be recommended by a doctor. Dietitians will have obtained a degree from an accredited institution and must be licensed in order to practice.

A dietitian might help plan food or nutrition programs to promote healthy eating or prevent or treat illness.

To call themselves a dietitian, they must pass a nationally accredited exam that will register them as a dietitian. In Canada, the Canadian Dietetic Registration Examination is required by every province except Quebec.

Where could I end up working?

Job locations for dietitians aren't limited to a hospital setting. As a dietitian, you could be working at extended care facilities, public health centres, pharmaceutical firms or educational and government institutions. You could also work in the food and drink industry or be a consultant. The possibilities are endless.

What kinds of work can I do?

Being a dietitian doesn't just include helping patients with gaining or losing weight or managing allergies. It can involve meal planning for busy families, athletes or those on a budget.

The chances of you being employed as a dietitian in North America are generally pretty good thanks to aging populations, which means that the need for dietitians is rising. There's also a growing consciousness about healthy eating, meaning people might be coming to you for advice more often.

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University of Yum

Where can I go to school to become a nutritionist or a dietitian?

- If you want to work as a nutritionist or dietitian in Canada then you'll need either a master's or bachelor's degree in dietetics, nutrition, food and nutritional science or biochemistry.
- Working as a dietitian or nutritionist in Canada is an extremely rewarding career for anyone looking to hatch their career in healthcare. It's worth investigating if you're passionate about food and want to use that passion to help others.

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Don't wage war at the watercooler, solve conflict with care and class

Ban boardroom brawls. Fight the urge to approach workplace battles with animosity and aggression

SHAHEERAH KAYANI
TalentEgg.ca

Have you ever gotten in a conflict at school with one of your project team members — or with a colleague at work?

Perhaps someone isn't showing up to meetings or contributing to a group task. Perhaps a personal issue has arisen with one of your coworkers.

These conflicts can leave you agitated and frustrated, whether they are personal, school-related or work-related.

Here are six handy conflict resolution tips that you may find useful in helping you to work through and settle these conflicts.

Talk directly
Rather than complaining to others and spreading rumours, it is best to talk directly with the person or persons involved in the issue. Taking a direct approach is definitely a lot more useful and will be faster than if you try to get someone else to do the talking for you.

If you aren't sure about this approach, speaking to a superior or instructor is a great idea — they may have insight or advice.

Choose a good time and place
Make sure to consider the setting of any discussion or attempt to resolve conflict. You don't want to be discussing your personal issues in front of everyone else, or somewhere where you are likely to be interrupted or distracted. Try to find a place where you can focus on the issue at hand. Choosing a good time will allow you to engage in a thorough dialogue to resolve the issue.

Choose your words carefully
This one is pretty self-explanatory. When tensions are high, the wrong choice of words can turn a productive discussion into a new stage of the problem. If you're bringing negative energy to the discussion, the other person will feel antagonized and will likely get defensive.

Plan ahead
Identifying the issue at hand and the necessary areas of discussion will make your resolution efforts more effective.

Try and get a clear understanding of the issue at hand, who the involved parties are and what a solution that meets the needs of every party will look like. Concentrate on addressing the issue at hand and focus on your own behaviour and areas of responsibility.

Give information
This is arguably the most important step. Try not to make assumptions. Making a statement like: "You are doing this to make my job harder!" won't get you anywhere. Instead, try offering information: "When you do this, it affects me because...."

Keep your emotions in check

If you're bringing negative energy to the discussion, the other person will feel antagonized and will likely get defensive.

Where job skills meet people skills.
GEORGE BROWN COLLEGE
georgebrown.ca

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Follow up on the solution

- When you have figured out a mutually agreeable solution, make sure to periodically check in with each person to ensure the solution is still working well for both of you.
- Of course, not all conflicts can be resolved under your own authority, no matter how hard you try. Be ready to resort to taking the issue to an instructor or supervisor to ensure that a proper process is followed.

Don't just talk, be a good listener too. You need to give the other person a chance to tell their side of the story. ISTOCK

One job that calls for special treatment

Behind the scenes. A radiation therapist takes us on a tour of his field

ROSIE HALES
TalentEgg.ca

Radiation therapy is a lesser-known area of medicine that can mean the difference between life and death for some patients who are treated for their illnesses using RT.

RT is most commonly used in the treatment of cancer. It can be used in addition to chemotherapy as an adjuvant therapy (to reduce the chances of cancer returning once it has gone) or on its own due to its ability to control cell growth.

Don't be confused by the abbreviation for radiation therapy, which is RT—this challenging and fulfilling career has nothing to do with Twitter! ISTOCK

Why go into radiation therapy?
Edward Leung, 24, is a radiation therapist and graduate of McMaster University and Mohawk College, where he received his bachelor of medical radiation sciences, and diploma in medical radiation sciences and radiation therapy. Leung said that he had two reasons for wanting to go into radiation therapy.

"Every day is a different day with radiation therapy; different challenges arise with new patient treatments and with general patient care," he explained.

"Secondly, radiation therapy is a very fulfilling job. I want to make a difference, and I could do just that through interacting with patients and helping in any way throughout their journey."

What's your favourite part of your job?
If you're a budding researcher rethinking a career in medicine in order to dedicate more time to research, then you should know that research makes up a large part of a radiation therapist's job.

In fact, the research aspect of his job is what Leung enjoys the most.

"My favourite part would be the research opportunities radiation therapy provides," he said.

"There are research groups created to improve patient care through standardization, or to improve treatment delivery through imaging protocol development and to stay up to date with new technologies."

What does a radiation therapy department look like?
A typical radiation therapy department consists of three main groups of therapists:

• **Computed Tomography (CT) Simulation Therapists:** This group is responsible for scanning the patient using a CT scanner, sending the data over to the treatment planners (see below) and tattooing or marking the exact areas in need of radiation on the patient.

• **Treatment Planners:** Treatment planners do exactly what their job title says: they plan the course of treatment for the patient.

• **Unit Therapists:** Unit therapists are responsible for delivering the actual radiation to the patient after the exact area and plan for the radiation has been determined.

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A day in the life

Edward Leung works as a unit therapist at a hospital in southern Ontario. Here's a basic breakdown of what a day in his job might look like:

7:30 a.m. to 8:15 a.m.: Leung typically starts his day by warming up the radiation therapy equipment and then performing a quality assurance check of the machinery.

8:15 a.m.: Patients start arriving for their radiation treatments.

10 a.m.: Radiation therapists must treat with a partner at all times, so at 10 a.m. another staff member will come in to cover paperwork time, breaks and lunches. Paperwork time generally consists of quality assurance checks of the patient's charts.

6 p.m.: The last patient for radiation therapy is treated and the department closes.

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Life hands lemons, make yourself an aid

Support system. A career in occupational therapy will see you assisting individuals who need a helping hand

ROSIE HALES
TalentEgg.ca

You may have heard of "occupational therapy," without being entirely sure what an occupational therapist does.

Here's the lowdown on the field of occupational therapy, including what kind of education you'll need to succeed and how you can improve somebody's quality of life through this exciting career path.

What is occupational therapy?

Occupational therapy (or OT, for short) assists a person to participate in their occupation (or everyday living) to the best of their ability. To properly understand what an occupational therapist does, it's important to know that an occupation isn't just a paid day job — it's activities that many people take for granted like going to school, moving around or doing housework.

Andy West, an OT student at Dalhousie University, says that defining OT can be challenging.

"Occupation is everything that an individual undertakes in their daily life. Due to the vast amount of activities that people do, 'occupation' is obviously a broad term. Simply put, OTs help individuals accomplish the goals they wish to complete during their day to day activities," Andy said.

Putting the degree to work

As an occupational therapist, you'll work with patients to help them reach their potential. More specifically, job duties can include:

- Helping with mobility issues
- Managing pain from an injury or pre-existing medical condition (such as arthritis)
- Returning to work after a prolonged illness
- Helping patients manage tasks around the home after illness
- Helping prevent long hospital stays

If you're looking to gain experience then check out your local health care centre or rehabilitation clinic and see if there are any spaces open for volunteers. ISTOCK

As an occupational therapist, you'll work with people of different ages and abilities to help them overcome the challenges that they experience when trying to participate in their occupations.

Why go into occupational therapy?

"I chose to study OT because of its critical role in the health care system, its commitment to client-centered practice, and the importance of having a job that will never be the same on a daily basis," Andy said.

OT isn't just rewarding for the patient, but for the practitioner too.

"I'm most excited about having the satisfaction of knowing that what I did today, this month, or this year had a positive impact on someone's life," Andy said.

"If someone can become more independent, safer or happier because of something that we have worked on together, then this is a career I can be excited and proud about."

What do I need to study to get into this field?

Once you've received your undergraduate degree (which can be in many different fields, ranging from sociology to biology), you'll need to apply to master's programs in occupational therapy.

Alongside this you'll also have to complete 1,000 hours of fieldwork.

Once this is done, you'll need to pass the certification examination from the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists or meet provincial registration qualifications.

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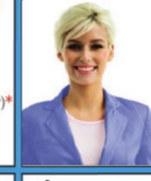

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Maple Leafs goalie Jonathan Bernier stops one of the 15 shots he faced in the third period against the Bruins on Tuesday in Boston. Overall, Bernier made 38 saves in the Leafs' 4-3 win. JARED WICKERHAM/GETTY IMAGES

Maple Leafs stay upright vs. Bruins

NHL. Toronto avoids another collapse despite facing heavy pressure at game's end

Tyler Bozak scored twice, Phil Kessel had three assists and the Toronto Maple Leafs held off the Boston Bruins 4-3 on Tuesday night.

Jonathan Bernier made 38 saves for the Maple Leafs, including 15 in the third period as the Bruins tried to rally after allowing three straight goals.

On Tuesday

Maple Leafs	Bruins
4	3

James van Riemsdyk's goal a minute into the third put Toronto up 4-2, and the Maple Leafs held on despite getting outshot 41-26.

Jake Gardiner also scored for Toronto.

Brad Marchand and Patrice Bergeron each had a goal and an assist for Boston. Gregory Campbell pulled the Bruins to 4-3 with 10:25 left in the third period, but Bernier stopped a late flurry of shots after Boston pulled goalie Tuukka Rask for the extra skater.

Boston won the first two meetings this season with the Maple Leafs, who were on the verge of winning their first-round playoff series in Game 7 last spring before the Bruins rallied from a 4-2 deficit late in the third period and won 5-4 in overtime.

Rask made 22 saves in this one for Boston, which lost for the third time in four games. He was booed after van Riemsdyk's wrist shot got past him early in the third, but came up with two big saves later in the period that kept the Bruins in it.

Rask made a sliding pad save on Nazem Kadri as he was being taken down by Zdeno Chara with a hook, then stopped a big shot early in the ensuing power play to keep it 4-3. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Toronto FC

Recent signings boost sales for season tickets

Toronto FC supporters have wasted little time responding to the club's recent spending spree.

The MLS team says it has sold more than 2,000 new season tickets in the last week in the buildup and hoopla surrounding Monday's announcement of the signings of England star striker Jermain Defoe and influential U.S. international midfielder Michael Bradley.

The renewal window for the club's existing 14,600 season-ticket holders runs through January.

Season tickets at BMO Field, which has a capacity of about 22,000, will be capped at 17,000. THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLB

146 players file for salary arbitration

Cy Young Award winners Clayton Kershaw of the Los Angeles Dodgers and Max Scherzer of the Detroit Tigers headed 146 players who filed for salary arbitration.

Tampa Bay pitcher David Price, Pittsburgh third baseman Pedro Alvarez and Cincinnati pitcher Aroldis Chapman also were among those who filed Tuesday.

Three Toronto Blue Jays, pitchers Brett Cecil and Esmil Rogers, and centre fielder Colby Rasmus, are among those who filed.

Players are set to swap proposed salaries with their clubs Friday, and hearings will be scheduled for next month in St. Petersburg, Fla. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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GSP: Drug testing influenced hiatus

MMA. Ex-welterweight champion says UFC didn't support his bid to get tougher on doping

Mixed martial arts star Georges St-Pierre says the Ultimate Fighting Championship's hesitant position when it came to stiffer drug testing greatly influenced his decision to take a break from the Octagon.

St-Pierre said Tuesday a lack of strenuous drug testing was one of the factors that led to his decision to step away from the sport.

"It bothered me greatly, it was one of the reasons I decided to step aside," St-Pierre said Tuesday.

He vacated his welterweight title and took a hiatus from the sport in December, citing a need to lead a normal life and deal with mental fatigue.

The 32-year-old confirmed when asked by a reporter that his employer, the UFC, did not support him when he proposed drug testing in the weeks preceding his Nov. 16 fight against Johnny Hendricks.

Georges St-Pierre THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

St-Pierre stepped away following UFC 167, where he won a controversial split decision over Hendricks. After that fight, he said he needed time away to sort out some personal issues.

The star fighter was prudent in his comments Tuesday, being careful not to point fingers at any one person or fighter. He stressed he wasn't accusing anyone of steroid abuse.

St-Pierre said he wanted to bring the sport he loves to "another level" of testing and help those who are honest in the sport.

"I tried to change things, and unfortunately — maybe for money reasons, maybe for image — they were not ready to do that," St-Pierre said. "I tried to (bring about) change in a very diplomatic way and it didn't work, so it's unfortunate, but I believe it will happen sooner or later."

St-Pierre said implementing drug testing is not a condition for any potential return to the sport. He added he could understand the reticence from the organization — a failed drug test could dramatically change a card and result in people losing money. THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Boston	46	29	15	2	132	102	60
Tampa Bay	47	28	15	4	136	113	60
Montreal	47	26	16	5	118	111	57
Toronto	48	23	20	5	132	146	51
Detroit	46	20	16	10	118	127	50
Ottawa	46	20	18	8	131	146	48
Florida	46	18	21	7	109	141	43
Buffalo	45	13	27	5	80	125	31

METROPOLITAN DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Pittsburgh	47	33	12	2	152	112	68
Washington	46	22	16	8	137	137	52
Philadelphia	47	24	19	4	125	132	52
NY Rangers	48	24	21	3	119	126	51
New Jersey	48	20	18	10	112	118	50
Columbus	46	22	20	4	129	131	48
Carolina	46	19	18	9	111	130	47
NY Islanders	48	18	23	7	132	156	43

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Chicago	48	30	8	10	175	132	70
St. Louis	44	31	8	5	161	99	67
Colorado	45	28	12	5	132	115	61
Minnesota	48	25	18	5	118	119	55
Dallas	45	20	18	7	127	139	47
Nashville	47	19	21	7	109	141	45
Winnipeg	48	20	23	5	133	146	45

PACIFIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Anaheim	48	35	8	5	161	119	75
San Jose	47	29	12	6	150	117	64
Los Angeles	47	28	14	5	120	96	61
Vancouver	47	24	14	9	123	115	57
Phoenix	45	21	15	9	134	141	51
Calgary	46	16	24	6	103	144	38
Edmonton	48	15	28	5	126	169	35

Note: 2 points for a win, 1 point for overtime loss.

Tuesday's results
Toronto 4 Boston 3
New Jersey 4 Montreal 1
Tampa Bay 2 NY Rangers 1
San Jose 2 Washington 1 (SO)
Florida 4 NY Islanders 2
Philadelphia 4 Buffalo 3
Ottawa at Minnesota
Calgary at Nashville
Phoenix at St. Louis
Colorado at Chicago
Edmonton at Dallas
Monday's results
Los Angeles 1 Vancouver 0
Calgary 2 Carolina 0
Winnipeg 5 Phoenix 1
Columbus 3 Tampa Bay 2
Wednesday's games — All times Eastern
Buffalo at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.
Washington at Pittsburgh, 8 p.m.
Vancouver at Anaheim, 10:30 p.m.
Thursday's games
Nashville at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Detroit at NY Rangers, 7 p.m.
San Jose at Florida, 7:30 p.m.
NY Islanders at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m.
Montreal at Ottawa, 7:30 p.m.
Edmonton at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Los Angeles at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Boston at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
New Jersey at Colorado, 9 p.m.
Winnipeg at Calgary, 9 p.m.
Vancouver at Phoenix, 9 p.m.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	Pt
Crosby, Pgh	25	42	67
Kane, Chi	23	33	56
Tavares, NYI	21	35	56
Getzlaf, Ana	23	30	53
Thornton, SJ	5	45	50
Perry, Ana	25	24	49
Sharp, Chi	25	24	49
Kunitz, Pgh	24	25	49
Backstrom, Wash	11	37	48
Toews, Chi	17	30	47
Ovechkin, Wash	32	14	46
Malkin, Pgh	12	34	46
Okposo, NYI	19	26	45

Tuesday's games not included

NFL PLAYOFFS

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Sunday's games
All times Eastern
New England at Denver, 3 p.m.
San Francisco at Seattle, 6:30 p.m.

SUPER BOWL

Sunday, Feb. 2
At East Rutherford, N.J.
AFC champion vs. NFC champion, 6:30 p.m.

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Indiana	30	7	.811	—
d-Miami	27	10	.730	3
d-Toronto	19	17	.528	10½
Atlanta	20	18	.526	10½
Washington	17	19	.472	12½
Chicago	17	19	.472	12½
Detroit	16	22	.421	14½
Charlotte	16	23	.410	15
Brooklyn	15	22	.405	15
New York	15	23	.395	15½
Cleveland	13	24	.351	17
Boston	13	26	.333	18
Philadelphia	12	25	.324	18
Orlando	10	28	.263	20½
Milwaukee	7	30	.189	23

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-San Antonio	30	8	.789	—
d-Portland	28	9	.757	1½
Oklahoma City	28	9	.757	1½
d-L.A. Clippers	26	13	.667	4½
Houston	25	14	.641	5½
Golden State	25	14	.641	5½
Dallas	23	16	.590	7½
Phoenix	21	16	.568	8½
Denver	19	18	.514	10½
Minnesota	18	19	.486	11½
Memphis	17	19	.472	12
New Orleans	15	22	.405	14½
L.A. Lakers	14	23	.378	15½
Sacramento	13	23	.361	16
Utah	13	26	.333	17½

d — division leader.
Tuesday's results
Indiana 116 Sacramento 92
Charlotte 108 New York 98
Oklahoma City at Memphis
Cleveland at L.A. Lakers
Monday's results
Toronto 116 Milwaukee 94
Houston 104 Boston 92
New York 98 Phoenix 96 (OT)
Washington 102 Chicago 88
San Antonio 101 New Orleans 95
Dallas 107 Orlando 88
Utah 118 Denver 103
Wednesday's games — All times Eastern
Charlotte at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Chicago at Orlando, 7 p.m.
Miami at Washington, 7 p.m.
Toronto at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
Memphis at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
Utah at San Antonio, 8 p.m.
Sacramento at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Houston at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Cleveland at Portland, 10 p.m.
Denver at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.
Dallas at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

Refund Information for 2013 TTC Senior/ Student Tickets and Day Passes

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TTC MDP Office (above Davisville Station)
1900 Yonge Street, Toronto
Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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Bloor-Yonge Station, Collector Booth
(Bloor Street southside entrance)
Monday to Friday, 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Starting February 3 to February 28, 2014
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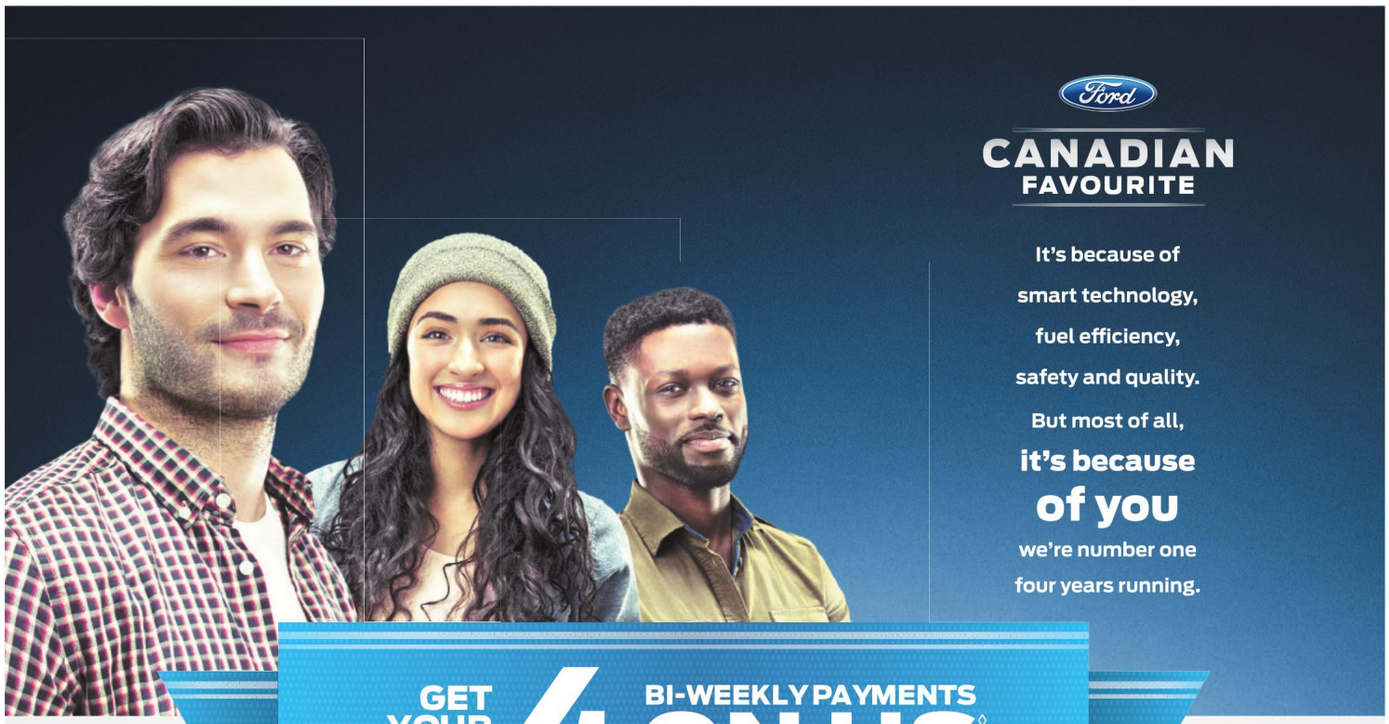

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Canada's very own Micra

Review. It's been 21 years since it was last sold here but now Nissan has decided to bring it back and 'Canadianize' it

MIKE GOETZ
drive@metronews.ca

PHOTOS: NISSAN

Nissan Micra's re-introduction to Canada reflects this country's love of small hatchbacks .

Currently sold in 160 countries, the Nissan Micra subcompact hatchback is a very successful global car.

But it's always been a no-show in the U.S., and it's been 21 years since it was last sold in Canada for an unremarkable seven-year run.

Nissan Canada just announced it will try the Micra experiment again, this time with feeling, and with a very "Canadianized" version, which will be exclusive to Canada. Nissan's U.S. arm is still not Micra motivated, and won't be selling any Micra versions any time soon.

Historically, the Canadian marketplace has always been populated with Canada-only models not sold in the U.S., but they're getting scarcer on the ground, and with what Nissan Canada had to go through, to make this new Micra happen, you can see why…

"It was in development for three years solid," says Andrew Wilton, Nissan Canada's chief marketing manager, and one of the Nissan execs on hand for the model's first unveiling, at a special event in Montreal last week. "You wouldn't believe the amount of engineering that went into it."

The Canadian 2015 Micra will be built at Nissan's Mexican plant, which has been building Mexican-market Micras for years, but Wilton said the Canadian version is closer to the European version. "We looked at the Mexican car, but it just wasn't right for us. We wanted more of the European touches."

In fact, the launch of the Canadian car was timed to coincide with the European model's mid-cycle revision, just completed in 2013.

Some of the "Canada-only" items on this Micra include ducts for rear-seat heating, 60/40 split folding rear seat, heated side mirrors, and front and rear sway bars for the suspension. Wilton and Nissan Canada are really proud of that suspension.

They took the best Micra suspension component set up they could find globally, in that European market Micra, and made it even better, by adding those sway bars: "No other market has a front or rear sway bar," boasted Wilton.

The car also gets the European 15 and 16 inch wheels, because Nissan Canada liked the looks of them, and Canadians use winter tires, and those are harder to come by on the smaller 13 and 14 inch wheels featured on the Micra models in other markets.

"That's the beauty of a global car. You can pick and choose from every single market. We selfishly like to think we did a really good job at the picking and choosing," added Wilton.

The Micra is smaller than the Nissan Versa Note, but shares the same V-platform, which underpins a lot of small Nissans (V stands for versatile). Micra's engine will also be the same 1.6-litre "four" toiling away in Versa Note, but Micra will go with a five-speed manual or conventional four-speed automatic; Versa's automatic is a CVT.

Keeping the "higher-technology" pieces on the Versa Note is Nissan's strategy to give the two small hatchbacks some separation on the sales floor and on the price ladder. So don't expect stuff up-market options like heated seats, navigation, and 360-degree monitor on the Micra.

Versa Note's base price is $13,348. Micra's will be lower than that, but Nissan is not saying by how much exactly, at least not yet.

2015 Nissan Micra

- **Type.** Subcompact four-door hatchback
- **Engine.** 1.6-lite four-cylinder engine
- **Transmissions.** 4-speed automatic or 5-speed manual
- **Base price (incl. destination).** Nissan said it will be lower than their $13.3K Versa Note

Exclusive Canadian club

The Canadian marketplace has always featured vehicles not sold in the U.S., but we're seeing less and less of them. Here are a few past and Canadian-market models that were, or are, persona non grata in the U.S., 1959 Dodge Viscount; 2000 Toyota Echo Hatchback; 2005 Acura EL 1.7, 2009 Mercedes-Benz B-Class.

*Limited time 2.9% semi-monthly lease offered through Toyota Financial Services on approved credit to qualified retail customers on all new 2014 Corolla models. First semi-monthly payment due at lease inception and next semi-monthly payment due approximately 15 days later and semi-monthly thereafter throughout the term. Toyota Financial Services will waive the final semi-monthly payment. Semi-monthly lease offers not open to employees of Toyota Canada, Toyota Financial Services or TMMC/TMMC Vehicle Purchase Plan. Some conditions apply. See your Toyota dealer for complete details. Example (applies across Canada except Quebec): 2014 Corolla CE 6M with a vehicle price of $16,415 (includes $1,100 Toyota Canada Lease Assist, which is deducted from the negotiated selling price after taxes, and $1,520 freight/PDI) leased at 2.9% over 60 months with $0 down payment equals 120 semi-monthly payments of $89 with a cost of borrowing of $1,735.85 and a total obligation of $12,369.05. $0 security deposit and first semi-monthly payment due at lease inception. Price and total obligation exclude license, insurance, registration, fees and taxes. 100,000 km allowance for 60 months, with ability to purchase additional kilometres at $0.05/km at time of lease inception, and a charge of $0.07/km for excess kilometres. Dealer may lease for less.

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2014 Ram 1500 Crew Cab Laramie Limited (EcoDiesel) shown. Late availability.§

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Wise customers read the fine print: €, •, *, ♦, § The Motor Trend Truck of the Year Sales Event offers are limited time offers which apply to retail deliveries of selected new and unused models purchased from participating retailers on or after January 7, 2014. Offers subject to change and may be extended without notice. All pricing includes freight ($1,695), air tax (if applicable), tire levy and OMVIC fee. Pricing excludes licence, insurance, registration, any retailer administration fees, other retailer charges and other applicable fees and taxes. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Retailer may sell for less. €$8,500 in Total Discounts is available on new 2014 Ram 1500 models (excluding Reg Cab) and consists of $8,500 in Consumer Cash Discounts. •$27,795 Purchase Price applies to the new 2014 Ram 1500 Quad Cab SXT 4x4 (25A+AGR) only and includes $8,500 Consumer Cash Discount. *Consumer Cash Discounts are offered on select 2013/2014 vehicles and are deducted from the negotiated price before taxes. ♦4.99% lease financing of up to 48 months available on approved credit on eligible new Ram 1500 models through WS Leasing Ltd. (a wholly owned subsidiary of Westminster Savings Credit Union) to qualified customers at participating retailers in Ontario, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Retailer may lease for less. See your retailer for complete details. Example: 2014 Ram 1500 Quad Cab SXT (25A+AGR) with a Purchase Price of $27,795 leased at 4.99% over 48 months with $1,599 down payment, equals 104 bi-weekly payments of $189 with a cost of borrowing of $4,292.88 and a total obligation of $22,237.28. 22,000 kilometre/year allowance. Charge of $0.18 per excess kilometre. Some conditions apply. §2014 Ram 1500 Crew Cab Laramie Limited (EcoDiesel) shown. Late availability. ≠Based on *Automotive News* classification and 2013/2014 Ram 1500 3.6 L V6 4x2 and 8-speed transmission. 11.4 L/100 km (25 MPG) City and 7.8 L/100 km (36 MPG) Highway. Based on 2013 EnerGuide fuel consumption guide ratings published by Natural Resources Canada. Government of Canada test methods used. Your actual fuel consumption will vary based on powertrain, driving habits and other factors. Ask your retailer for complete EnerGuide information. **Based on Chrysler Group internal fuel economy ratings. =Based on longevity of entire Ram large pickup segment compared to all competitive large pickups on the road since 1988. Longevity based on R. L. Polk Canada, Inc. Canadian Vehicles in Operation data as of November 1, 2013 for model years 1988-2013 for all large pickups sold and available in Canada over the last 25 years. ™The SiriusXM logo is a registered trademark of SiriusXM Satellite Radio Inc.

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Sporadic power delivery an issue with the Fit

Second gear.
2007-2013
Honda Fit

JUSTIN
PRITCHARD
drive@metronews.ca

PHOTO: PROVIDED

Honda's Fit launched in Canada for 2007 with a cleverly designed body and cabin that generated a whole whack of space inside of a small package. Big on flexibility, efficiency and reliability, Fit found homes in the driveways of thousands of active Canadians, students, busy couples, pet lovers and outdoors buffs alike. Crammed with 2,572 liters of interior volume and 1,622 liters of cargo space, Fit owners benefit from rear seats that flip up or down to accommodate a variety of items.

Common issues

Inspect your potential used Fit candidate for signs of damaged or peeling paint, which may be more prevalent on the bumpers. Many owners say they wish for a more durable finish from their Fit. Further, check for signs of rust, or repaired rust, around the rear wheelwells where the steel body panel meets the bumper—especially in first generation models. Be sure the tailgate stays open on its own, confirming the struts that lift and support the tailgate aren't worn out. Be sure the first-generation Fit has a properly-functioning external tailgate release latch, too. If it sticks or fails to open the hatch, an occasional blast of WD-40 can help until you wind up replacing the assembly. Lumpy, lazy or sporadic power delivery at moderate or full throttle may be the result of failure of one of the four coil packs, which fire the spark plugs. The Fit should steer easily and smoothly at any speed. If it doesn't, a fussy Electronic Power Steering (EPS) component could be to blame. Many owners simply restart the engine to bring the system back online if it cuts out—which will illuminate a warning light and drastically increase steering effort.

What owners like

Fit owners rave about mileage, versatility, handling, braking, maneuverability, visibility, ergonomics, and a surprising level of on-board roominess, despite the machine's compact size.

What owners dislike

Fit owners typically complain about a noisy engine and ride, abrupt ride characteristics in some situations, and diminished performance when the vehicle is loaded up.

Engine

All models were motivated by a 1.5-litre i-VTEC 4-cylinder engine, offering up to 117 horsepower. Fit drives the front wheels through either a 5-speed manual transmission or a 5-speed automatic with available paddle-shift.

The verdict

Used car shoppers can expect the Fit to command a premium in the used market, in exchange for above-average reliability, versatility and driving pleasure. Seek a mechanical thumbs-up from a Honda mechanic ahead of your purchase, and then buy confidently.

Automotive eye candy is coming ...

Autoknow. In a world that seems incapable of keeping secrets, the Detroit Auto Show still has a surprise or two up its sleeve

TODD D. BURLAGE
wheelbasemedia.com

The 2014 North American International Auto Show (NAIAS) in Detroit, Mich., won't likely have the punch of the 2013 event.

Why? The Corvette was a huge draw a year ago. And with the international debut of the 2015 Ford Mustang already having taken place in December, this year's NAIAS will launch Jan. 18 to the general public without the draw of a clear headline act.

But what the NAIAS will lack in the revelations of iconic vehicles, it will likely make up for with a wide variety of debuts from many of the premier manufacturers around the world. More than 20 top autobuilders have confirmed vehicle launches during the show, including Acura, Bentley, BMW, Cadillac, Chevrolet, Ford, Honda, Infiniti, Lexus, Mercedes-Benz, Nissan, Porsche, Toyota and Volkswagen.

"The manufacturers continue to show their confidence in the NAIAS, and will once again bring their absolute best to Detroit's world stage," said Bob Shuman, chairman of this year's show. "That means introductions of an expected 50 worldwide concept and production vehicles that will be seen for the very first time right here in Detroit."

Almost 30,000 industry professionals, 5,000 journalists and 750,000 visitors will converge on the Cobo Center in Detroit for the Super Bowl of auto shows that ends Jan. 26. "The manufacturers made it abundantly clear that this show and the global stage it provides is of critical importance to their vehicle launch strategies," said 2013 show chairman Jim Seavitt.

As expected, every vehicle type — more than 500 models total —will be displayed on more than 60 exhibitor stages throughout the 2.4 million square-foot Cobo Center.

Many manufacturers are keeping their reveal plans hidden in the garage, but a few details have leaked on what show visitors can expect. Following are some of the most anticipated vehicle debuts scheduled for Detroit.

Quoted

"The manufacturers continue to show their confidence in the NAIAS, and will once again bring their absolute best to Detroit's world stage."

Bob Shuman, chairman of this year's show

2014 BMW 2 Series Coupe

Bavarian Motor Works is creating arguably the most buzz of any manufacturer as it readies to pull the covers off of not one, not two, but three important vehicle launches in Detroit. The most anticipated of the three surrounds the 2 Series, which is a two-door coupe designed and built to replace the aging 1 Series. The new car will be a late-2014-model-year arrival when it goes on sale in March. The 2 Series is about nine centimetres longer that the 1 Series and has more space between the front and rear wheels, meaning more cabin and storage space. Why call it a 2 Series? BMW is rejigging its number sequencing with even digits being assigned to two-door models. Two models will be available at launch: the base 228i; and the sportier M235i. BMW will also unveil its all-new M3 performance sedan and M4 coupe in Detroit.

2015 Mercedes-Benz C Class

Hoping to attract even more popularity to its best-selling model, Mercedes-Benz will introduce an all-new longer and wider C Class coupe that the company touts as "a bold departure from its predecessor," a classic model that has already sold more than 2.4 million units worldwide. By adding more aluminum in construction - almost 50 per cent compared to 10 per cent in the outgoing C Class car — the new vehicle sheds about 100 kilograms from the existing model, a weight reduction that Mercedes-Benz says will help cut fuel consumption by about 20 per cent and greatly improve handling and agility. An air suspension will be available for the first time in the C Class, with three engine options to choose from at launch. The C180 and the C200 models feature 1.6- and 1.9-litre powerplants. The C220 CDI carries a 2.1-litre turbo-diesel. A hybrid model will also be added to the C Class catalog later this year.

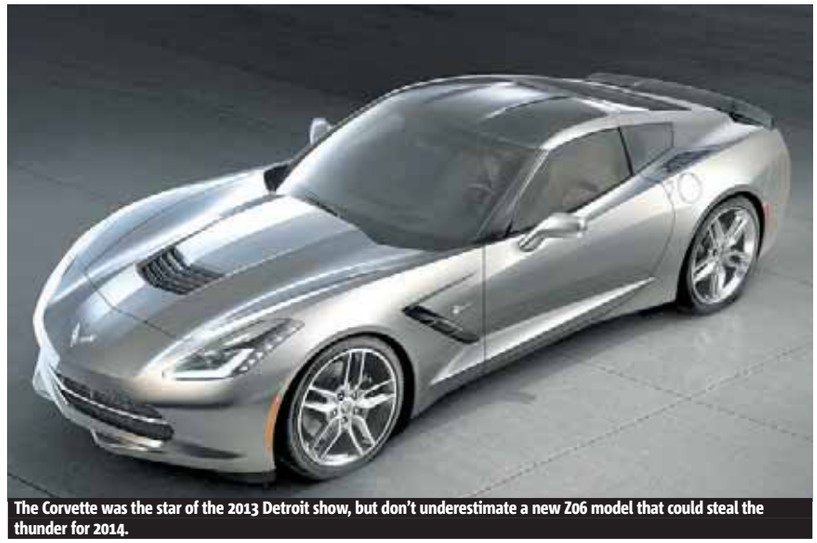
2015 Lexus RC F

Based on a couple of teaser photos from Lexus, the RC F is a high-performance version of the RC coupe that was unveiled at the Tokyo Motor Show in November. According to Autoblog.com, the new RC F will be the hit of the Lexus lineup in Detroit, with a V8 engine that will produce up to 460 horsepower, and with similar styling and design cues featured on the LF-CC concept car that was unveiled at the 2012 Paris Motor Show.

2015 Honda Fit

Honda promises that its third-generation Fit will feature fresher styling, more space and improved fuel efficiency. An all-new platform and powertrain is also expected to improve performance for a popular subcompact that has sold nearly five million units in 123 different countries since its introduction in 2001.As the new-car buyer continues to crave lower fuel consumption, Honda promises that the new Fit hybrid will not only deliver terrific efficiency but better performance and some of the best safety features in its class. Add to these four anticipated production models the debuts of some intriguing concept vehicles such as the bold-looking John Cooper Works model from Mini and the Formula One racing inspired Q50 from Infiniti, and the hosts of NAIAS vow that the 2014 show will be want for nothing. "It's what we've been working on since last January," Shuman said of the massive event preparations. "This show is going to rock."

The Lexus RC coupe was unveiled in November, but a high-performance RC F will launch in Detroit



The Corvette was the star of the 2013 Detroit show, but don't underestimate a new Z06 model that could steal the thunder for 2014.

Even though the new Mustang has already been unveiled, Detroit might represent the first opportunity to see one in the flesh.

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Toyota's FT-1 concept has universal appeal

2014 Detroit Auto Show. Japanese automaker decided to indulge itself and show a stunning vision of where the company is headed for the future

AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

I think Toyota have succeeded in making a car that everyone likes in FT-1 BOTH PROVIDED

The interior is a good example of the designers' 'just for function' ethos

The Toyota FT-1 concept debuting in Detroit this week portends what a front-engine, rear-drive Toyota flagship sports car might look like, if Toyota was so inclined to build one.

It was totally designed at Toyota's Calty design studio in California, and the chief designer there, Alex Shen, tells us that the main design theme was to leverage and celebrate the "functional aspects of a sports car."

"If you look at the surfacing and construction, you can see everything is based on downforce and cooling needs," says Shen. As such, the air intakes and outtakes are where a lot of the FT-1's visual horsepower is made, with very graceful and dramatic sculpting.

"We didn't just want to make very mechanical holes. The sculpting is actually in the holes, in the negative surfacing."

The other curves and bodywork are also all about doing what they can for engine cooling, aerodynamics, and cleaning up "dirty air." When Calty talked to Toyota's "race guys" (the department known as TRD), the race guys said dirty air around the wheel arches is a particular problem on the racetrack. The FT-1 has crazy wheel flares and tight body-to-wheel tolerances, but it's not for show — it's all for go.

At higher speeds a retractable rear wing also deploys and tilts forward to improve weight distribution.

Shen said the vehicle is "authentically aerodynamic."

The "just for function" ethos continues to the tiny cabin, which is just big enough to cover the driver and passenger, and the soft seat materials exist only where they meet human body parts.

"Nothing is excessive," says Shen.

I guess I get what he means, but everything works toward an excessively dramatic sports car concept. It's a showstopper for sure, and a bit of a reversal for Toyota, which has historically only green-lighted vehicle designs if they satisfied a lot of consensus-based tests, such as consumer and market studies, and internal juries.

"The goal was to produce a vehicle liked by everyone," said Kevin Hunter, who heads up Calty, and who had the honours of introducing the concept in Detroit. "As a result we took less risk, and tried not to stray too far from designs that had been a success."

Hunter said Toyota is moving away from such consensus decision processes, so more emotionally engaging products, like the FT-1, can be created: "This is a symbol of Toyota's design future, a spiritual pace car for a changing Toyota."

No production plans or any technical specifications for the FT-1 were revealed, though Shen said many elements of the design should show up on future Toyota products.

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Careful when over-taking a snow plow. BOTH PHOTOS: REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF DURHAM

A truck sprays anti-icing brine on the road prior to a big freeze.

When the weather turns icy, you simply toss some salt on your driveway. But municipalities have to do far more than that to keep the streets clear whenever snow and ice are in the forecast.

"We use two forms of salt," says Uldis Siksna, manager of maintenance and operations for the Region of Durham. "We have salt brine and solid rock salt."

Before a storm or freezing temperatures arrive, trucks spray brine on dry roads, a process known as anti-icing. "This liquid salt dries up and leaves the salt residue on the road, which shows up as white lines," Siksna says. "You're trying to prevent a bond from forming between the roadway and any freezing rain, snow, or ice pellets. It's easier to keep the surface of the road clear when it's time to plow."

Once the snow flies, plows go out to clear it away, and to scatter rock salt on the road. Some trucks spray liquid brine onto the rock salt just before it's spread, which is called pre-wetting. This helps keep the salt from bouncing too much, and also speeds up the melting process.

Salt lowers the freezing point of water, which is why salted ice melts at temperatures below freezing, but it does have its limits. Salt is basically ineffective below -20 C.

Municipalities with very cold winter temperatures use sand instead, which provides traction. It's more environmentally-friendly than salt, which can damage concrete and vegetation, but it's not viable in milder regions, where it would regularly wash off the roads and need to be reapplied. "There are huge costs associated with getting rid of sand," Siksna says, adding that it clogs storm drains.

Each municipality has its own routines for handling snow and ice, which can depend on what type of trucks it has and how many, the type of roads, and its budget. Some add calcium chloride to their brine, which works at even lower temperatures, while a few, including Toronto, use a liquid made from sugar beets.

It's easier on the environment than salt, but far more expensive. But no matter where you are, one rule applies: be cautious around snow plows. "People try to pass a plow, and they're passing on a portion that hasn't been cleared," Siksna says. "They lose control and they hit the plow, or they hit someone head-on, or they go into the ditch. Eventually the plow finishes its circuit and turns off, so stay behind it."

Did you know?

- **Beware the road less travelled.** Cars crush road salt, which accelerates the melting process. Lightly-travelled roads may be slippery because larger salt crystals are still sitting on top.
- **You need the know how to manage a plow.** Snow plows are complex machines, with numerous controls to operate the main plow, the wing plows, the salt spinner and the pre-wetter.
- **Pickled sand.** Areas that use sand often put down "pickled sand," which has a small amount of salt added to keep it from clumping.

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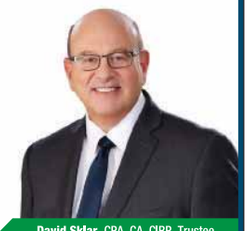

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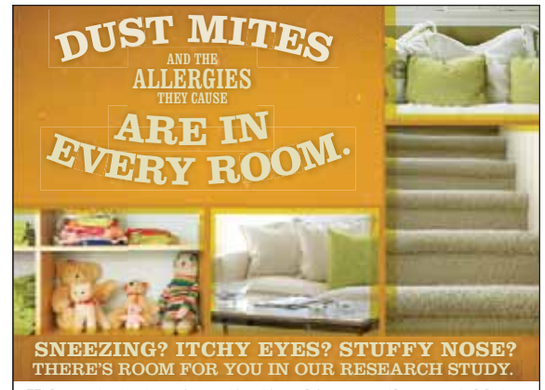

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He Gives Protection

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Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
The full moon's influence will pull your emotions first one way then the other over the next 48 hours. So the safest course of action is to ignore them completely and act only on what your head tells you.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
You would like nothing better than to turn your back on the past and start again but you know it isn't practical. Make the most of the situation you find yourself in. It's not that bad.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
You may lose your temper with someone who lets you down. But don't feel bad about it because you are not the only one whose emotions are up in the air. Even Geminis get annoyed once in a while.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
What happens tomorrow, when the moon is full in your sign, may seem extreme. But who says life is fair? Others have the power to make the rules and you don't, so adapt.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
You will fall out with someone today, most likely because you cannot agree on issues of a philosophical nature. Fortunately, you will also find it easy to make up and be friends again.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
As tomorrow's full moon cuts across one of the outspoken areas of your chart, you won't be tactful when dealing with people whose opinions you do not share. But why should you be when you are right?

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Are you in charge of your emotions or are they in charge of you? If you are honest, it will most likely be the latter. Whatever happens, don't let your fears damage your career.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
The tensions in one area of your life have almost reached breaking point but that need not be as bad as it sounds. In fact, it could even be good if it clears away all the resentments you've been saving up these past few months.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Tomorrow's full moon makes it likely that you will clash with someone over money. But don't take it seriously because in a matter of days neither of you will be able to remember what it was all about.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Don't let your emotions get the better of you over the next few of days. Others can rush about like it's the end of the world but you will remain cool and with full self-control.

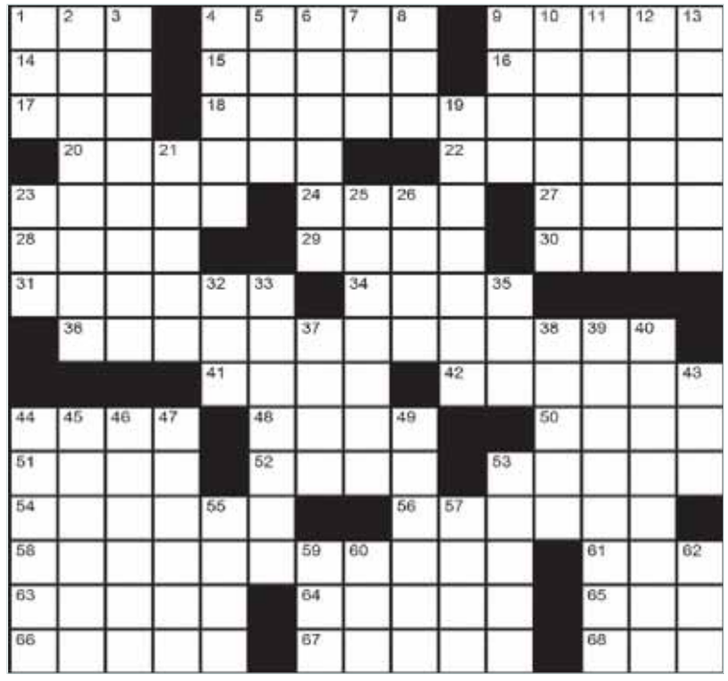
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You seem to be in a fighting mood but don't lose sight that while some things are worth fighting for, others are not. Pick your battles carefully and make sure your enemy is worthy.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
It will pay you to steer clear of touchy subjects over the next 48 hours. There are things going on that you disapprove of but will getting involved on an emotional level change anything? No. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

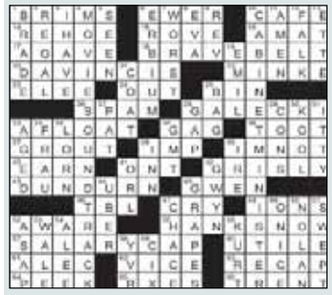
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Cooling device
4. Soldier date for Barbie: 2 wds.
9. Store areas [abbr.]
14. Author Mr. Levin
15. Wearer of the black tutu in Swan Lake
16. Love, in Venice
17. Montreal area, lettered
18. Origin for medical-grade marijuana: 2 wds.
20. Bean-yielding trees
22. Sheepish response to "Where'd that last piece of cake go?": 3 wds.
23. "Sheesh.": 2 wds.
24. Eden offspring
27. Ms. Sommer
28. Crying sounds
29. Songwriter, Jimmy __
30. Crate strip
31. Hamilton radio station, K-__ _ _
34. Ancient Greece's war god
36. 18-3224 __ __: Purple hue that is Pantone's 'Color of the Year' for 2014
41. And others, for short
42. Bug's midsection
44. Dress lines
48. Nautical ropes
50. Alone
51. Nursemaid
52. Mixture
53. __ Park (Thomas Edison's home/lab site in New Jersey)
54. Change a moniker
56. Ukraine port city
58. Type of police bust: 2 wds.
61. Sundial number
63. Like an omelet
64. Was resentful, __ _ grudge
65. __. _ (Julius Erving, to basketball fans)
66. Ms. Witherspoon
67. Bathroom cleanser
68. "Omigod!"

Down
1. In shape
2. Football-on-TV watcher, __ quarterback
3. Community in BC's Okanagan Valley
4. Middle East: __ Heights
5. Thought: Prefix
6. __ puzzle
7. 'Pay' suffix
8. Three-lettered fish
9. Olympic swimming great Ms. Torres
10. Overacts
11. Coastal city of BC, __ River
12. Three-horsed Russian carriage
13. Set of seven
19. Stage show collaborators, __ & Sullivan
21. Surveyed
23. Night flapper
25. 1964: "Ladies and gentlemen... The __!!!"
26. River of Spain
32. Giant's cry of disgust
33. 1497: John Cabot's ship, The __
35. Principal's employer, for short
37. Quebec water brand
38. Sprays
39. TV series that starred Canadian actor Raymond Burr
40. Canadian Senator/humanitarian, Romeo __
43. Tic-Tac-Toe line
44. Current PM
45. Arise
46. Horsemanship academy
47. Sunglasses
49. Sandbanks
53. Athlete's prize
55. Formed
57. "Thank You" songstress
59. Oilers org.
60. King: Spanish
62. Alphabetic trio

Yesterday's Crossword



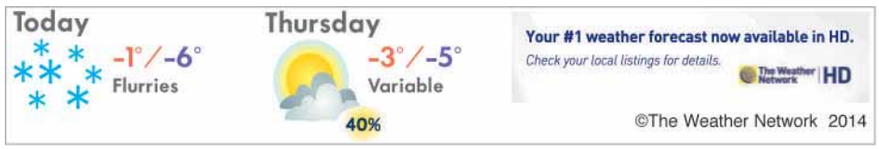
Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

8		2		7		1	6	
	9	7						
			4					2
2		1	3					
7			6		1			3
					4	5		7
5					2			
						4	7	
	4	6		8		9		1

Yesterday's Sudoku

7	6	5	9	8	2	3	1	4
8	2	3	4	1	7	9	6	5
4	9	1	3	5	6	2	7	8
6	4	7	5	9	8	1	2	3
5	8	2	6	3	1	4	9	7
1	3	9	7	2	4	5	8	6
3	5	8	1	6	9	7	4	2
9	7	6	2	4	3	8	5	1
2	1	4	8	7	5	6	3	9



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AWD AVAILABLE ALL-WHEEL DRIVE

Sorento EX shown△

THE NEW 2014 SORENTO

hwy / city 100km^
7.1L/10.4L

WAS ~~$159~~

THROWBACK PRICING
$124≠ BI-WEEKLY for the first **15 MONTHS.**
6-SPEED AUTOMATIC

0%≠ financing

Includes Variable Throwback Pricing Incentive. $124 bi-weekly payments include $1,120 Throwback Pricing incentive. Payments are based on 2014 Sorento 2.4 LX AT FWD (SR75BE). 60-month financing amortized over 84 months. After 15 months, bi-weekly payments increase to $159. Principal balance of $8,255 due after 60 months. Throwback Pricing incentive may be taken as a lump sum or to reduce financed amount.^

AWD AVAILABLE ALL-WHEEL DRIVE

Sportage SX shown△

2013 SPORTAGE

hwy / city 100km^
6.5L/9.7L

WAS ~~$148~~

THROWBACK PRICING
$108≠ BI-WEEKLY for the first **15 MONTHS.**
6-SPEED AUTOMATIC

0%≠ financing

Includes Variable Throwback Pricing Incentive. $108 bi-weekly payments include $1,280 Throwback Pricing incentive. Payments are based on 2013 Sportage LX AT FWD (SP752D). 60-month financing amortized over 84 months. After 15 months, bi-weekly payments increase to $148. Principal balance of $7,679 due after 60 months. Throwback Pricing incentive may be taken as a lump sum or to reduce financed amount.^

reddot design award winner 2013

7 PASSENGER SEATING AVAILABLE

Rondo EX Luxury shown△

THE ALL-NEW 2014 RONDO

hwy / city 100km^
6.2L/9.4L

WAS ~~$128~~

THROWBACK PRICING
$88≠ BI-WEEKLY for the first **15 MONTHS.**

0%≠ financing

Includes Variable Throwback Pricing Incentive. $88 bi-weekly payments include $1,280 Throwback Pricing incentive. Payments are based on 2014 Rondo LX MT (RN551E), financing for 84 months. Offer includes $750 loan credit‡. After 15 months, bi-weekly payments increase to $128. Throwback Pricing incentive may be taken as a lump sum or to reduce financed amount.^

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Offer(s) available on select new 2013/2014 models through participating dealers to qualified retail customers who take delivery by January 31, 2014. Dealers may sell or lease for less. Some conditions apply. See dealer for complete details. Vehicles shown may include optional accessories and upgrades available at extra cost. All offers are subject to change without notice. All pricing includes delivery and destination fees up to $1,665, $34 tire recycling/filter charges, $5 OMVIC fee, environmental fee, variable dealer administration fees (up to $399) and $100 A/C charge (where applicable) and excludes licensing, registration, insurance, other taxes and down payment (if applicable and unless otherwise specified). Other lease and financing options also available. ^Throwback Pricing available O.A.C. on financing offers on new 2013/2014 models. 0% financing for 84 months example: 2014 Rondo LX MT (RN551E) with a purchase price of $23,995 (including $1,665 freight/PDI and $399 administration fee) financed at 0% for 84-month period equals 32 reduced bi-weekly payments of $88 followed by 150 bi-weekly payments of $128. Cost of borrowing is $0 and total obligation is $23,993. Throwback Pricing incentive varies by model and trim level and may be taken as a lump sum or to reduce the financed amount. The Throwback Pricing incentive for the 2014 Rondo LX MT (RN551E) shown is $1,280 (a $40 reduction in 32 bi-weekly payments). Limited time offer. See retailer for complete details. Throwback Pricing is a trademark of Kia Canada Inc. 60/84 Amortization Financing Example: 2013 Sportage LX AT (SP752D)/2014 Sorento 2.4L LX AT FWD (SR75BE) with a purchase price of $26,878/$28,893 (including $1,650/$1,665 freight/PDI and $399 administration fee) financed at 0% for 60 months amortized over an 84-month period equals 32 reduced bi-weekly payments of $108/$124 followed by 98 bi-weekly payments of $148/$159 with a principal balance of $7,679/$8,255 plus applicable taxes due after 60 months. Cost of borrowing is $0 and total obligation is $26,878/$28,893. Throwback Pricing incentive varies by model and trim level and may be taken as a lump sum or to reduce the financed amount. The Throwback Pricing incentive for the 2013 Sportage LX AT (SP752D)/2014 Sorento 2.4L LX AT FWD (SR75BE) shown is $1,280/$1,120 (a $40/$35 reduction in 32 bi-weekly payments). Limited time offer. Offer excludes HST and other applicable taxes. See retailer for complete details. ‡Loan credit for 2014 Rondo LX MT (RN551E) is $750 and is available on purchase financing only on approved credit (OAC). Loan savings vary by model and trim and are deducted from the negotiated selling price before taxes. 0% purchase financing is available on select new 2013/2014 Kia models O.A.C. Terms vary by model and trim, see dealer for complete details. ≠Model shown Manufacturer Suggested Retail Price for 2014 Sorento 3.3L EX AT AWD (SR75HE)/ 2013 Sportage 2.0T SX Navigation (SP759D)/2014 Rondo EX Luxury (RN756E) is $34,195/$39,145/$32,195. ^ Highway/city fuel consumption is based on the 2014 Sorento LX 2.4L GDI 4-cyl (A/T)/2013 Sportage 2.4L MPI 4-cyl (A/T)/2014 Rondo 2.0L GDI 4-cyl (M/T). These updated estimates are based on the Government of Canada's approved criteria and testing methods. Refer to the *EnerGuide Fuel Consumption Guide*. Your actual fuel consumption will vary based on driving habits and other factors. Information in this advertisement is believed to be accurate at the time of printing. For more information on our 5-year warranty coverage, visit kia.ca or call us at 1-877-542-2886. Kia is a trademark of Kia Motors Corporation.